



# MVCF

## November 2023 Newsletter

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

### *Pastor's perspective*

### Inside this issue:

#### Staying Focused on Jesus

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” -Hebrews 12:1-3

My mom has been a swimmer for many, many years. And recently I started swimming with her several times a week. Swimming is wonderful for me on several levels: it is great exercise, it boosts my mental health, and of course, it is a great way to spend time with my mom.

But I've noticed something as I swim: when my mind is distracted and thinking of many different things (a common occurrence for me!) I don't swim as well as I do when I am singularly focused on swimming. When I am distracted, my strokes are more choppy and less efficient, I need to take breaths more often, and I get tired more quickly. But when my mind is clear and I am only focused on swimming, my strokes are better, I don't need to breathe as often, my breaths are well timed, and I can swim for a longer period of time. In short, I am a much better swimmer when I am only focused on swimming.

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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*

This then leads to a simple but critical principle: we do better at a task when we are singularly focused on that task. This of course applies to more than just swimming. For example, we are much better drivers when we are singularly focused on driving. The other day I was driving to church and saw a car next to me where the driver was looking straight down at her phone instead of looking ahead at the road. There is no way that looking down at your phone makes you a better driver. I wanted to get away from her as fast as possible! We do better at a task when we are singularly focused on that task.

With this principle in mind, consider your relationship with Jesus. The author of Hebrews instructs us to fix our eyes on Jesus. Focus on Jesus. The more our eyes are fixed on Jesus, the more likely we will follow him and “not grow weary and lose heart.” The principle then is the same: the more we are focused on Jesus the easier it will be to follow Jesus.

But this leads us to a difficult challenge. I would imagine most, if not all of you reading this right now would love to singularly focus on Jesus. But we live in a world where there is so much distraction. Work, friends, family, school, hobbies, health issues, stress, fear, anxiety, insecurities, finances, car problems, and so much more scream for our attention every single day. And these things quickly distract us away from Jesus. This happens to me on a regular basis. For example, I can easily read my bible in the morning, be deeply touched by a passage I read, and then after eating breakfast, taking two kids to school (at different times), walking the dog, and getting to work, I have completely forgotten what I read 90 minutes earlier.

So how do we stay focused on Jesus in the midst of so many distractions? How do we stay singularly focused on Jesus as we go through our busy day? I put this question to our Leadership Council last month, and here were some of their ideas (Council, I apologize if I left anything out!):

- Listening to Christian music/worship music
- Listening to Christian podcasts/sermons (this is great if you have a long commute)
- Pray as you drive (with your eyes open of course!)
- Pray the Lord's Prayer when you have a moment of silence/stillness in your day

These are all excellent ideas. My personal “go to” is journaling. I try to write in my journal several times a week, usually at night (I usually have more time later in the evening and I am certainly more awake than early in the morning!). Sometimes I write out prayers of praise, other times I wrestle with God in prayer about something going on in my life, and other times I reflect on a biblical passage that the Lord brings to mind. I find that when my mind and heart are distracted and scattered, journaling holds me hostage (in a good way!) until my focus comes back on the one who I need the most: Jesus. And not only does journaling bring my focus back onto Jesus that night before I go to bed, I find that my mind and heart are much more focused on Jesus the following day as well.

How can you fix your eyes on Jesus as you go through your day? Try one or more of these ideas this month, and see how your relationship with Jesus grows.

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve

# November

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



*Children's Ministry***Pray!! How!!!****1 Thess. 5:16-18**

NIV...Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

NKJ... 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

The Apostle Paul gives the Thessalonians and us a very clear challenge. In this passage Paul gives us three clear instructions. Rejoice, pray without ceasing and give thanks. You could produce an article, if not an entire book, from each of the challenges. This article will just touch slightly on one interesting and possibly daunting instruction from Paul. Pray continually or unceasingly. Your first thought could easily be that you should be praying nonstop during all your waking hours. To be in nonstop communication our Lord would be an awesome and wonderful condition. But, the logistics of doing that this side of glory seems a bit impossible. What then is Paul saying? There are certain ancient Greek and Hebrew words in scripture when translated into English can be have a more limited definition. The Greek word *adiapleptos* is translated as "continually" or "without ceasing" but also translates as "without omission". We know that when we omit anything we are leaving something out. Now looking at that particular translation, it will give us more clarification. Paul provides further clarification as he addresses the Philippians.

Philippians 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

The operative word in this passage is *everything*. There is not an area of your life that you cannot bring before the Lord in prayer. Yes, we can be discerning in what we are praying about. But that is not because we are restricted by what the Lord will let us share with Him; God gives us permission to communicate with Him about anything. His answer can often be no when we ask for something that He knows will not be a benefit. We do not stop our children talking to us simply because they don't communicate on our level. Our perfect Father does not shut us down simply because we don't communicate in some perfect manner. Jesus did not tell His disciples just pray only about certain things and not others. Jesus' criteria was "always and relentlessly. Pray without ceasing."

Luke 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Mr. French

**NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS**

Samuel Miller	11/01
Briahna DeLaCruz	11/09
Ernie Garcia	11/13
Carl Jensen	11/16
Scott Fiori	11/21
Mary Jo Cooper	11/22



Jayson Stone & Rebecca Schnarr	11/04
Steve & Joanna de Vos	11/06

*Service Ministry*

## Service Ministry at MVCF

Service is the act of giving comfort from one individual to another. It is marked by compassion, heartfelt concern, actions to relieve pain or sorrow, It is a form of giving in a personal way to provide comfort and well being. As Christians, we are called to provide service to one another. While we have a ministry here at MVCF, it is also something we can show to one another on a regular basis. While at church or anywhere for that matter, we can offer kind words or actions when we see someone in need. I am reminded of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus felt compassion for her and offered her a solution to her problems in the form of Living Water. In the case of Nicodemus, He offered him an opportunity of being born again in the Spirit which provided life everlasting. Sometimes it just takes a kind word or deed to make another person's day. If you or someone you know needs a visit or call, please let me know or better yet reach out and be more like Jesus.

Carl Demas, Service Coordinator

*Mark 10:45*

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

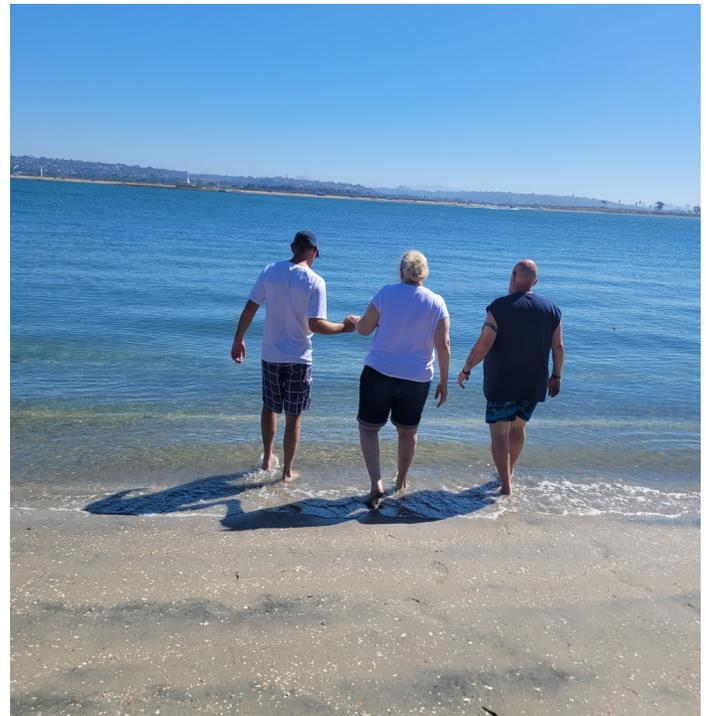
**THE MEASURE OF A  
MAN'S GREATNESS  
IS NOT THE NUMBER  
OF SERVANTS HE HAS,  
BUT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE  
HE SERVES**

*John Hagee*

*Baptism*

Hallelujah!!! On October 15, 2023 Laura Copenhaver and Evan de Vos were baptized. We share in their joy and gratitude as they are joining the community of faith. May they have a lifetime of blessings, faith, hope and love. Congratulations and blessings!

*Photographs courtesy of Church Members*





## **Romans 6:3– 4**

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

*Youth Ministry***Happy Thanksgiving!!!**

Everyone BE thankful! God is Good! All the Time! We love God who loves us! God is our Rock!

In our Youth group we are continuing to dive deep into the Lords Prayers as it has been stimulating conversations and inspiring the youths and leaders to write our own personal prayer to God.

**Hallowed Be Your Name**

We someone is hallowed, that person is honored and revered as holy. We pray to God to extend his holy spirit on us to transform us to be purer and purer more like Him. The coal touched to his lips was like a symbol of purity. The Youths expressed turning more to God for is guidance in School and life!

**Your Kingdom Come**

This part of the Lord's Prayer makes it clear that not only is God our Heavenly Father, He is also our king; we are His children, too. We talked about what is it like to pray for a kingdom on Earth. Some of our Youth's comments were:

God wants us to do his deeds on Earth as it would be in Heaven; Heaven on Earth. We need a relationship with God to get closer to Heaven. We are sinners if we live for ourselves. Our Heavenly King has high expectations of us; do not be influenced by the World's ways; read, know and study the Bible more. To learn a verse like John 3:16. Focus only to follow God's path.

**Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread**

The Lords model prayer instructs us that we are utterly dependent upon our Father for all of our daily needs. Jesus said, "Pray in this way." Asking God for our daily bread includes all of our daily needs; not just our need for food. We discussed other examples of asking God for daily.

Each week (and daily) we pray in our Youth Group for better grades in school and on tests and for Better Mental Health. The students realized they need God to 'hold it together' or when life gets really busy - to rest in God's arms and grace. Keep praying to God daily for simple things.

**November 1<sup>st</sup>** -Taking a field trip to Aztec Bowl 6:30-8:30pm next to Ogg's Pizza on SDSU Campus.

We will continue to have the Thanksgiving food donation bin in the front and/or give cards \$25) from Super Markets like Vons; Food For Less or Ralphs. Collecting for the Wed. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> .

Thanks again for all your generous support. May God Bless you and your families. Keep Safe.

*Photographs courtesy of Church Members*



## Mission Village Christian Fellowship

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**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