



Pastor's pen

Ups and Downs

"But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay." -Psalm 40:17

Life can be incredibly frustrating at times. We all face trials. There's an old saying that if you're not facing a trial right now, you're either coming out of one or about to head into one. And therein lies the frustration. We face a challenging circumstance in our life, we pray to God for help, and we see him deliver us. We're riding high and filled with thanksgiving. But then the following week, we find ourselves back in another challenging circumstance, or worse, it seems to be the same challenging circumstance that we were in the week before. So how do we handle this seemingly never ending cycle of ups and downs?

If this describes your life, know that you are in good company. In Psalm 40, the psalmist begins with praise and thanksgiving for God's deliverance: "I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand" (Psalm 40:1-2). This is starting out to be a wonderful psalm of thanksgiving!

But then, by the middle of the psalm, the psalmist is back in trouble again: "For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me" (Psalm 40:12). Just like us, the psalmist is facing a never ending cycle of ups and downs, joys and hardships, elation and depression. Sound familiar?

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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**

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

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

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How do we deal with such volatility in our lives? First, as followers of Jesus we can find comfort in knowing that no matter what we face in this life, nothing can take us away from our loving God. Jesus makes this incredible statement: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28). If we belong to Jesus, we will always be with Jesus, even through the worst trials we can face in this life. And one day, we will stand before him and be with him all eternity. Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:39). That is encouraging!

Second, the psalmist gives us a wonderful spiritual principle to follow as we experience this roller coaster of ups and downs: Be honest about ourselves, then focus on who God is. Notice how Psalm 40 ends: "But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay" (Psalm 40:17). The psalmist is honest about his struggles and circumstances. He is not trying to sugar coat his life, nor trying to put a positive spin on things. He honestly tells God, "this is what is going on and here is why it is so hard."

Clearly, God already knows what is taking place in the depths of the psalmist's heart, in the same way that he knows the depths of each of our hearts. The psalmist expressing himself this honestly does not inform God of anything he does not already know. But what it does do is bring the psalmist to a place of raw openness before God. Sadly, many of us rarely get to such an honest place with God. We know what we "should" feel and "should" think and "should" say as Christians, and that leads us to respond to hardships with positivity instead of honesty, with statements that are biblically true but that don't reflect the reality in our hearts. Then our focus stays on saying and feeling the right thing and not the real thing. When our focus is on that, it is not on God. The spiritual charade distracts us away from God.

However, when we can stand before God in brutal honesty of where we are and what is taking place in our heart, then we can look to who God is and be encouraged by who God is. "You are my help and deliver; you are my God, do not delay." Be honest about yourself, then focus on who God is.

Where are you in the endless cycle of the ups and downs of life? Are you in a season of thanksgiving and praise? Or are you in a season of trials and hardships? Or somewhere in between? Regardless of where you are in this cycle, be honest about yourself and then focus on who God is. That is a pathway to peace in any season!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Derived from Timothy Keller, *Songs of Jesus*, March 25th Devotional.

April 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--|-----------|---|
| | 1 6:30pm Women's Bible Study | 2 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting | 3 10am Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth | 4 5:30 De Vos Home Fellowship (MVCF) | 5 | 6 |
| 7 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship | 8 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study | 9 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting | 10 10am Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship | 15 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study | 16 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting | 17 10am Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship | 22 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study | 23 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting | 24 10am Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth | 25 | 26 | 27 8:30am All Church Work Party |
| 28 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship | 29 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study | 30 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting | | | | |

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36:26-28

Service Ministry

As Easter is behind us it behooves us to remember that our Savior made the ultimate sacrifice for us because he loves us. He did it not only for us, He did it for everyone which sends a message that while it is easy to address those who we know or recognize but remember our face is sometimes the only Jesus they will ever see. Often, we hear those things that Christians have done have been the reason unbelievers never join the church. What do they do when they see your face or view your deeds. We are told to go out into the world and make disciples of all men and women and the way to do that is to be a friend and offer yourself as someone deserving to be listened to. I challenge you to review your actions and be the person Christ wants you to be and one people want to emulate. As good servants, service is our product and we want to hand it out generously.

Carl Demas, Service

April Celebrations

Hannah French 04/02
Jayson Stone 04/08
Marge Demas 04/09



Michele Quion 04/11
Carl Demas 04/22
Jenn Perez Harris 04/27

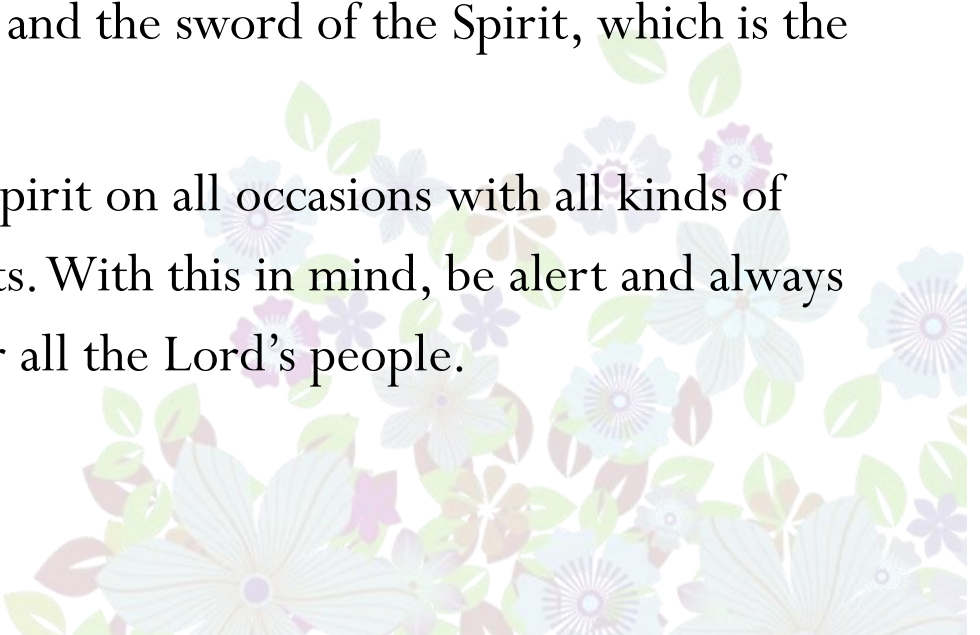


Carl & Marge Demas 4/16
Matt & Ellen Davis 4/16

The Armor of God Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.



Youth's Ministry

He is risen – He has risen Indeed! Was echoing in our church this Easter. We had several new families come to our Easter Service and Easter Egg Hunt. We advertised on Facebook that we had a free Easter Egg Hunt – it brought several families to our church at 10:30. Due to the inclement weather, we had to have the Sunrise Service in the Fellowship Hall and our famous Easter Egg Hunt in the sanctuary. When the new families arrived, I had to steer the children into the Youth Group room and their parents into the sanctuary because Pastor was still preaching till 10:45a. Because for the new people attending our church, Pastor emphasized hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ! Both rooms were packed! We had the most people in a long time attend our Easter service! After the service, People went into the fellowship hall for Hot dogs and Nacho's. We did not have Jenni in town to make something spectacular, so we took the easiest route offering dogs, chips & lemon-aide to all! The fellowship room was a buzz with so many new people plus all of us!

Thank you to the Youth Group for stepping up to scatter the Easter Eggs for the younger children.

Prior to Easter, we had the Seder Passover dinner in the Fellowship Hall with Chris French as our leader. He taught us the symbolism of the simple items that Jesus choose to represent his life. Everyone read out loud at times, the Youth Group had certain readings that they did a great job of reading. Cason is the youngest youth so he found (Afikomen) and won the prize given out by the leader. 'Just as the Afikomen was returned to complete the Passover Seder, so the sinless Messiah rose from the dead to ascend into heaven and will return for his bride.' We were so blessed with a full room of faithful people attending the Seder dinner. It was especially great to see a whole table of our Youth Group. 8 please!! We appreciate all of them coming to learn more about the Lord and participating so well in the readings they each read from the Messianic Haggadah script. Great job! A big shout out to Frank Romero & Terri for preparing this special Seder dinner & The French family!!

We are smack in the middle of learning more in depth about the apostle creed. Hoping once again, they will memorize it for us and recite it before the end of this school year. (including the leaders). Also, would like to take this month on a Christian College tour at Pt. Loma Nazarene University.

We have a few students being promoted INTO high school – Congratulations!!

We have our 1st 2 students: Sam Miller and Brihana DeLaCruz Graduating from High School in June!! ☐

Please mark your calendar for Sunday June 16th after our service will be their graduation Bash!!

God bless us all!

Pictures from our Messianic Passover Seder Dinner

Photos courtesy of Terri Carver



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as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves
with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
Col. 3:12

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 |