



MVCF

December 2023 Newsletter

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

Pastor's perspective

Light in the Darkness

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” -Isaiah 9:2

Light and dark cannot exist together. While it is true that if you have a tiny light you can make darkness a little less dark, you cannot have absolute darkness in the presence of any light. It is beautiful how a simple night light in a bedroom can take away the absolute darkness in the room and give comfort to a child (or adult!).

Such is the beauty of the Christmas season we are entering into. Jesus is the light that penetrates our darkness. What a gift, especially in the midst of so much darkness! I know from talking and praying with many of you that we see the darkness all around us. We see the darkness in the horrible wars taking place in the world right now. We feel the darkness around us as our hearts break for those in our lives who do not know Jesus. And even for those of us who have received the light, we sense darkness trying to penetrate our lives as we deal with the daily realities of sin, sadness, death, pain, suffering, loss, grief, and more. Darkness is everywhere.

Thankfully Jesus gives us a simple but powerful promise. He says in John 8:12 “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The promise is simple: if we follow Jesus, we will have light. Of course the opposite is also true: if we do not follow Jesus, if we choose to follow our own path, then we will walk in darkness. When we see the darkness around us, this promise alone is a powerful motivator to walk with Jesus and stay close to Jesus!

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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

What does this mean for us then as followers of Jesus as we enter this wonderful Christmas season? Two things. First, let Jesus' light shine into your life. Let Jesus light your way. Christians receive Jesus as the light at the beginning of their Christian journey, but many then make the mistake of trying to walk without him, much like someone who receives a powerful flashlight right before a camping trip, but then leaves it at home. But when Jesus' light shines into our hearts it makes a real and tangible difference in our lives. This Advent Season we will be working through the prologue in the Gospel of John on Sunday mornings, and we'll see how Jesus' light gives us real peace, real hope, real joy, and real love. So let Jesus' light shine into your life everyday.

Second, let Jesus' light shine through your life. Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:14-16 makes this clear: "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." There are any number of ways you can let Jesus' light shine through you this Christmas. You can share the good news about Jesus with friends and family. You can invite people to church who need to know Jesus. You can serve the community and help those less fortunate than you. And you can care for those around you who are hurting this Christmas season. One of the greatest gifts you can give this Christmas is to give up your time (maybe our most precious commodity this month!) and maybe even temporarily set aside your happiness about the Christmas season in order to sit with someone who is hurting; to listen to them and feel their pain. Don't try to fix their problem, and definitely don't tell them "I know how you feel." Just listen to them, love them, and let Jesus' light shine into their darkness.

Jesus is the light that penetrates our darkness. That is a beautiful gift to both receive and give this month.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Steve

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS



Antonio Quion V	12/02
Gayle Kraft	12/07
Elaine Morgan	12/13
Jim Ryer	12/14
Roger McCollough	12/21
Ronda Adams	12/21
Evan de Vos	12/28



Mike & Terri Loren	12/09
Doug & Margi Eno	12/27
Ernie & Susan Garcia	12/30

Children's Ministry

Proverbs 15:23

NIV...A person finds joy in giving an apt reply— and how good is a timely word!

NLT...Everyone enjoys a fitting reply: it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time

This season can be very challenging for many people. In certain cases the reason is very clear. There is the loss of a loved one that may have occurred during this time of the year or that they may be approaching for the first time without that loved one in their life. For others there are some very specific emotional, physical or fiscal situations that impact their lives during this time. But there are a number that I have talked to who can't clearly define why there is difficulty feeling joy or happiness in this season.

The concept of a timely word listed the Proverbs 15:23 is suitable for every season. But for those who are struggling this season, for whatever reason, the timely word could be those simple words of kindness, caring, compassion, encouragement and love. For believers in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we love the fact that we can use the name of Jesus at this time without necessarily causing a riot. However, the opportunity to more freely use His name will definitely be more impactful when coupled with words and actions of kindness, caring, compassion, encouragement and love. I pray our focus this season will be looking for opportunities to bless those around us.

Mr. French

Service Ministry

Many think that good works and the many things Service does gets us into heaven, but the fact is that repentance for sin and forgiveness by God through Jesus Christ is the only way. Acts 2:38 tells us, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit then utilizes the gifts we are given to provide service to our fellow man as we witness to them and share our faith. Love is the key and if you do not know what your spiritual gifts are, you can call pastor, the elders, or myself for a gift assessment to allow you to reveal your gifts. Christmas is the time of gift giving as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the best gift you can give yourself is to utilize your gifts in the service to others. Many times when we share our gifts with others, it opens up an opportunity to share our faith and help others be assured of eternal life through Jesus Christ. This is one gift that is guaranteed to make every recipient something that they can treasure, give to others, and not have to return.

Some examples of spiritual gifts are: Administration, Apostleship, Counseling, Craftsmanship, Creative Communication, Discernment, Encouragement, Evangelism, Faith, Giving, Healing, Helps, Hospitality, Interpretation, Knowledge, Leadership, Mercy, Miracles, Prophecy, Shepherding, Teaching, Tongues, and Wisdom. Many of us have several gifts so take the assessment to find out.

In His Love, Carl Demas

Youth Ministry

December is here!! This is the month our Savior Jesus Christ was born for us to rejoice and be glad!

Jesus is the Reason for the Season!! December is the Youth Group's busiest month by far!

We are glad to have been able to go bowling last month at SDSU Campus Aztek Lanes. It was such a blessing watching the students bowl and eat Pizza. We had a good turnout of 6 students including Evan's school friend. Geneva is the only one to get over 100; mostly gutters; however they went on a strike brigade with all of them getting one at the same frame. It was a rainy night that we were quite thankful to go as a group! Our YG Gets along fine with a bit of razzing now and then in fun. We all recited in thanks the Lord's Prayer in unison as we walked over the bridge of the SDSU campus over College Ave.

We talked about FORGIVENESS in our last couple sessions. A tough concept for anyone; especially teenagers. The Biblical word for forgiveness means to let go or to give up a debt that is owed. FORGIVENESS is NOT condoning or agreeing with their action. To FORGIVE someone is to let go of any claim we have to any kind of repayment on their part. Forgiveness allows for the reconciliation of relationships of two people or more. Don't hold onto it even after you tell them they are forgiven. Don't be hostile toward them. Think, "I am not going to demand pay back from you." You can verbally say to them, "I will not hold this against you." Some people are hard to forgive. Sometimes family members are the hardest to forgive and need it the most to live in harmony.

We are wrapping up the Lord's prayer early December. Decided to start the Apostle's Creed 1-3-2-4!!

ENJOY the church at night! Drive by often to see the beautiful lights and say a prayer for more members here.

November 25th The Youth Group and many volunteers decorated our church beautifully & dazzling!

November 29 The Lord's Prayer wrap up & recital. Decorating the Youth Group Christmas Tree!

December 6th YG Shopping at Target for Angel Tree gifts! Thank you so much for ALL your \$ donations!!

December 9 Women's Christmas Tea 1P-3p in the Fellowship Hall. Free – Just ladies RSVP to JoAnna!

December 10 YG Gifts to the King 5p (A Melody of Carols) to honor Jesus. (Help me entice them all!)

December 13 YG Christmas Party & ALL Birthdays September through December!! Bri, Evan, Sam, etc.

December 17 & 20th – ANGEL TREE -- WRAP GIFTS After church and maybe deliver Wednesday the 20th!

December 24 Christmas Eve Service (morning and evening, I think).

January 3, 2023 YG Starts! Happy New Year!! God bless you and your families this Holiday Season! TC

Youth Ministry Continued



12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1:10
Bri	-8 8	-- 8	-1 9	6- 15	8- 23	7 2 32	-- 32	1- 33	4 4 41	1- 42	42
Geneva	1 6 7	- 7 14	3 6 23	7 / 38	5 - 43	9 - 52	⑦ 2 61	X 81	3 / 98	7 - 105	105
Gavin	-1 1	3 - 4	7 / 22	8 / 32	-- 32	3 - 35	3 - 38	9 - 47	-- 47	-- 47	47
Evan	2 - 2	3 - 5	5 - 10	X 29	① 1 38	1 8 47	- 4 51	1 - 52	2 - 54	3 - 57	57
Samuel	-- 0	6 2 8	X 37	X 56	9 - 65	6 - 71	9 - 80	6 - 86	6 - 92	-- 92	92
Jonas	-- 0	-1 1	3 3 7	7 / 17	-- 17	- 7 24	- 7 31	7 - 38	X 51	3 - 54	54





December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship 1st Sunday of Advent	4 6:30pm Women Bible Study	5 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	6 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth	7 De Vos Home Fellowship	8	9 1:00pm Women's Cozy Christmas Tea
10 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11:30am Angel Gift Wrapping 5:00pm Gift to the King 2nd Sunday of Advent	11 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women Bible Study	12	13 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth Group	14	15	16
17 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11:30am Angel Gift Wrapping 3rd Sunday of Advent	18 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women Bible Study	19 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	20 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth Group	21	22	23 8:30am All Church Work
24 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship 4th Sunday of Advent	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	27 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry	28	29	30
31 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship						



Advent Word Search



Find the hidden Advent words.

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

SUNDAY

FOUR

CHURCH

CROWN

CHOCOLATE

NATIVITY

DECEMBER

WREATH

COUNTDOWN

CALENDAR

CHRISTMAS

CANDLES

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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 Jacob
Nursery Attendant.....	Hannah French