

# MVCF

## February 2024 Newsletter

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

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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 pen

#### Overwhelming, Undeserved, Unconditional Love

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." -Romans 5:6-8

When Joanna first moved to San Diego, she lived with two girls in an apartment in Pacific Beach. Both of these girls had boyfriends, although I'm not sure how serious either relationship was. But I was shocked when I came to visit Joanna on Valentine's Day. The small apartment was covered wall to wall with flowers and chocolates and gifts. These two boyfriends, who clearly were not in a place of financial stability, spent all they had and then some on these two girls for Valentine's Day. And there was a clear sense that the health of each relationship was dependent on the amount and size of the flowers and chocolate.

Now please don't misunderstand me...I think flowers and chocolates are a wonderful way to bless your spouse or significant other (and not just on Valentine's Day!). But what stuck with me on that Valentine's Day was the conditionality of the gifts. It was as if these two guys couldn't do enough to secure their girlfriend's love.

Now we can write this story off as an example of immature young adults who haven't yet learned how to be in a healthy relationship of unconditional love. Yet sadly, many mature adults, and many Christians, fail to experience unconditional love in their lives. Worse, many Christians fail to experience the unconditional love of God. We sin, and instead of running to God for forgiveness we hide in shame like Adam and Eve. We believe that Jesus died for our sins yet anxiously wonder at the same time if we have done enough to measure up to God's will for our lives.

*Pastor's pen continued on page 2*

*Pastor's pen continued*

Here's the reality: We have all sinned, and we have all fallen short of God's standard (Romans 3:23). We don't measure up. We don't deserve anything from God. But here is an even greater reality: God loves us. In the book of Romans Paul goes out of his way to emphasize that God didn't send his son to die for us when we were good enough, he sent his son to die while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8). God loves you. That is an overwhelming, undeserved, unconditional love.

This year Valentine's Day also happens to be Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. What a beautiful overlap of these two days on the calendar! The day the world celebrates love is the day we solemnly reflect on our sin and prepare our hearts for the upcoming Good Friday and Easter Celebration at the end of Lent. Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday together therefore give us a special opportunity to reflect on how much God loves us.

Stuart Townend is one of several musicians and songwriters who have led the modern hymn writing movement over the past 30 years. In the mid 90s he wrote a beautiful hymn: "How Deep The Father's Love For Us." You can listen to the song on YouTube. But I have included the lyrics here. If you are struggling to experience the lavish, undeserved, unconditional love of God, let these words sink deep into your heart this month.

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: You are deeply loved by God. Not because you are good enough (you aren't), but because God is love. And while the flowers and chocolates are great, the gift of God's unconditional love is infinitely greater.

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve

# FEBRUARY 2024

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

♥happy♥  
*Valentine's*  
♥day♥

## Missions

Hi Church,

I wanted to share some highlights from the Serra Mesa Food Pantry, which continues to operate on the Mission Village Christian Fellowship campus:

The pantry is open every Wednesday from 10am to 1pm and provides bags of food for approximately 140 families each week.

Since implementing the Oasis Insight program required by the San Diego Food Bank in July, the pantry has reduced its service area to 92123 only, making for a more manageable workload.

The pantry has been grateful for volunteers from its new partner, *Independiente, Juntos (iJuntos)*, a program that helps adults with mild developmental disabilities learn skills that can help them gain employment.

Let's continue to pray for and partner with the food pantry as they faithfully serve the community!

Thanks,

Ellen

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



## Service Ministry

Service by definition is: the occupation or function of serving, employment as a servant, the work performed by one that serves, contribution to the welfare of others, and a meeting for worship-often used in plural. Note that this is not something that we do solo. When performing the act of serving, it means enlisting the company of others. We often think that this action is something we pay others for or that it is the job of someone else but not us. Jesus taught us otherwise. It is the job of all of us to perform service to each other by performing acts of kindness in thought, word, and deed. One of the greatest truths of our society is that harm comes to us when we isolate ourselves and sometimes find ourselves alone and forgotten. One of the statistics I have read recently stated that many men have no friends to whom they can relate. Women do a much better job of that but still in our society men die earlier than women creating an environment of solitude for the widow.

The solution is to outwardly attempt to speak to someone you suspect of needing a friendly voice and reach out to those who need the concern and consideration of your company. You might even find an opportunity to tell them about Jesus or invite them to our church. In the process we are fulfilling the great commandment and even opening ourselves to His service and will for our lives.

Carl Demas – Service

## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS



Carl & Marilyn Jensen	02/01
Tony & Susan DaVee	02/08
Aender & Jenn Perez Harris	02/14
Steven & Luisa Johnson	02/17

Jim Williamson	02/04
Bruce Kraft	02/15
Steve de Vos	02/15
Joanna de Vos	02/16
Mike Evans	02/16
Steven Johnson	02/16

## *Youth's Ministry*

February is going to move a bit slower now toward Valentines Day, Spring Break, Easter, then graduations in May and June! We have several students in our youth group being promoted and/or graduating High School! Some planning to go to college 'or not.' It's a big decision for them to stay in San Diego or another city. We recommended to find a BT. (Bible talk)

It's a hard decision for todays 17 year just trying to get through the last semester of school. They are just starting to drive. They have been protected by their parents, the school system, a fun secure youth group where they can share anything that is on their hearts then we will pray for them every Wed. 8p!

For the first couple of sessions this year with diverted from starting to study the Apostle's Creed (in Feb now) so we took on the challenge to:

***Read a Psalm a day! Will you take on that challenge with us?***

The first meeting in January: We had the ladies only with: Bri, Geneva, Lilly & Mary Jo Cooper as Pastor had an Elders meeting next door. We all read 2 Psalms out loud to each other! What a Joy! I started and read mine with passion then the youth ladies followed my lead and read with such holy spirit compassion, enthusiasm and so dramatic. We talked about new words we found; especially noted that each Psalm had a happy ending of some kind. I have printed this out for them to see & will email it too. The second meeting in January we had only the young men: Sam & Jonas. We did not meet the last 2 Wednesdays in Jan. instead, I attended the play THE TWILIGHT ZONE at PHHS. Our very own Brihana DeLaCruz, starred in the second Act called "The Living Doll" named Tina. She did a fabulous job, she looked at us and spoke loud enough for all us to hear her in their NEW Drama Studio.

God bless us all! We are so busy in our lives – we need to carve out time for a daily prayer with **God!**

GB

Terri Carver, MVCF YG Leader



*Happy Valentine's  
Day!*



# WORD SEARCH

## PROPHETS FROM THE BIBLE

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

- |           |          |              |         |
|-----------|----------|--------------|---------|
| ISAIAH    | JEREMIAH | LAMENTATIONS | EZEKIEL |
| JONAH     | DANIEL   | MICAH        | HOSEA   |
| ZEPHANIAH | JOEL     | HAGGAI       | AMOS    |
| ZECHARIAH | OBADIAH  | MALACHI      | NAHUM   |

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

## Mission Village

### Christian Fellowship

2650 Melbourne Drive

San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: 858-278-2633

**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