

# MVCF

## *May 2024 Newsletter*

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### Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen	1
Pastor's Pen Cont.	2
Calendar	3
Birthdays/Anniversaries	4
Service Ministry	4
Youth Ministry	5
Fruit of the Spirit	6
Slow Down Swap Party	7
Council Members	8
Contact Information	8

### 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

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." -Acts 1:8

Jesus' final words to his disciples before he ascended into heaven were words of commission: "You will be my witnesses..." Followers of Jesus are to be witnesses to Jesus. Through the guidance and the power of the Holy Spirit, the job of a Christian is to share the good news of Jesus with those who do not know Jesus. Evangelism then, proclaiming the good news of salvation, is central to the Christian faith.

But then the question that must be asked is this: how can we be effective witnesses for Jesus? Yes, the Holy Spirit will empower us, and we cannot downplay the significance of that in any way. But knowing the Holy Spirit will empower us for this witnessing task doesn't give us any practical tools for how we can be an effective witness. Evangelism can often seem daunting and overwhelming, and is getting more difficult in an increasingly post-Christian world. Many brothers and sisters either feel discouraged about evangelism or guilty about their lack of effectiveness or effort in evangelism. So let me offer three practical tools to help us grow as witnesses for Jesus.

First, an effective witness for Jesus is a growing disciple of Jesus. If we want to be effective in telling others about Jesus, we need to be growing in our personal relationship with him. You'll have a hard time convincing someone of the love and grace and beauty of Jesus if that love and grace and beauty is not seen in your life. It will be hard to convince someone that meeting Jesus is the best thing that ever happened to you if Jesus doesn't seem to make a difference in your life.

**Continued on Page 2**

Continued from Page 1

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

6:30pm Women's Bible Study at MVCF

#### Tuesday

9:00 am Bible Study at MVCF

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**

Dallas Willard puts it this way: "The ultimate lifter of doubt—is the believer acting in faith in an interactive relationship with God." So if you find that you are not growing in your discipleship to Jesus, or you feel stagnant and you're not even sure where or how to start growing, I would love to help you get started...or restarted...on your discipleship journey.

Second, an effective witness for Jesus uses the gifts God has given them. The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 describes the church as a body, with each part, each believer, serving as a different part of the body. Obviously the hand does something different from the foot, which does something different than the eye. But when it comes to evangelism, much of the frustration experienced by Christians comes in feeling pressure to share the faith a certain way and with a certain outcome. However, a cookie-cutter approach to evangelism doesn't make sense if we are all different parts of the body with different gifts.

Now, just to be clear, I am NOT saying the Gospel message doesn't have to be shared or can be avoided if it's too offensive. The message of salvation is critical for people to be saved (Romans 10:14)! But while the message doesn't change, how we share that message might change depending on our gifts. For example, some are really gifted in having apologetic discussions with people who don't know Jesus, and can talk about difficult topics in a loving and gracious way. Others are really gifted in hospitality, and in creating environments where people can both experience the love of Jesus and hear about the love of Jesus. But the person gifted in hospitality might not be gifted in apologetics and the person gifted in apologetics might not be gifted in hospitality. That's ok. What's not ok is when we go outside of our skill set and try to share our faith the same way that someone else does. That usually gets us into trouble. So when you use the unique gifts that God has given to you, you will be much more effective as a witness for Jesus.

Finally, an effective witness for Jesus meets people where they are, and helps them go where they need to go. If you look at the ministry of Jesus, you will see that he rarely interacts with people the same way, rather he meets them where they are, and he engages their specific life circumstances. Sometimes they believe, and sometimes they don't. But too often the focus in evangelism today is trying to get people across a "finish line." Get them to believe, get them to pray a prayer. Now that can work if someone is only one step away from believing in Jesus. But if someone is further away, or struggling with some significant roadblock to faith in Jesus, pushing them to pray a prayer of faith will not be the most effective way to be a witness for Jesus. Rather, we can meet them where they are, meet them in their struggles, and help them take a step towards Jesus. They might not become a Christian in that moment, and we may never see them become a Christian. But we can help them move one step closer to Jesus.

One way to do this is to take the time to genuinely get to know someone. Get to know them not just as someone who needs Jesus, but as a human being. Get to know their life, their passions, their heart, their fears, their struggles. Get to know their worldview and what they believe about God. Then you will be in a position to know where someone really is in relation to Jesus, and then you can really help them walk towards Jesus.

Grow as a disciple of Jesus, use your gifts (and not the gifts of the person next to you), and meet people where they are. This may not seem earth-shattering or revolutionary. It's not. But these simple tools will help you to be an effective witness for Jesus, and that's what Jesus has called us to be.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

# May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>  10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry  6:30pm Youth Group	<b>2</b>  De Vos Home Fellowship	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>  8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship	<b>6</b>  6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>7</b>  9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	<b>8</b>  10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry  6:30pm Youth Group	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>  8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	<b>13</b>  1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>14</b>  9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>15</b>  10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry  6:30pm Youth Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>  8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service  <b>Pentecost Joint            Service &amp; Potluck</b>	<b>20</b>  1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>21</b>  9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	<b>22</b>  10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry  6:30pm Youth Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  8:30am All Church Work Party
<b>26</b>  8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	<b>27</b>  1:00pm Bible Study  <b>Memorial Day            Church office            closed</b>	<b>28</b>  9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	<b>29</b>  10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry  6:30pm Youth Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

## May Celebrations



Jim Ryer & Audrey 05/23  
Nakamura



*Happy Birthday*

Shirley House 05/13

Audrey Nakamura 05/22

Marilyn Jensen 05/29

### Genesis 28:14

Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

## Service Ministry

As we view our world and try to understand the unrest and division of our nation and world for that matter, I would like to encourage everyone to understand that our times bring no surprises to our God. The Bible tells us that there will be difficulties and unrest. Be confident that our God is in control and while man has a free will, God has anticipated this and makes provision for us.

What we can do is reach out to those in our church body, neighborhood, City, State, and Nation and World by providing these services.

1. Forgive any of those who you know especially if they have harmed you in any way.
2. Reach out to any Church Members, relatives, neighbors, or those you see visibly needing help with basic life necessities.
3. Make provision every day to spend time in prayer and the Bible asking God to help you understand the times and His Will for your life.
4. Finally, ask pastor or the elders if there is anything you can do to encourage our body utilizing your gifts and available time and talents.
5. Remember that we know that God wins in the end and is preparing a forever place for us and it will be beyond amazing.

Service Coordinator,

Carl Demas

## Youth Ministry

It's May already! Spring showers bring April flowers! The Serra Mesa garden is looking so beautiful! ☺

Graduation is in the air! Next month in June - 2 of our original Youths will be graduation high school! Sam Miller and Brihana DeLaCruz! Good luck to you in your next couple months and then a lifetime after that. Getting older is a good way to mature more in knowing Jesus Christ more. We hope that we cemented really knowing Jesus Christ for their upcoming adult lives to protect and guide them.

Please mark your calendars for a Graduation Party after church here on June 16, 2024 to celebrate!

We will have fun, games, promotion awards, etc. I'll be asking you to bring your special dish to share with their families and friends to compliment our BBQ of hamburgers and hot dogs and chips.

This last month we learned more deeply about the Apostle's Creed. We studied the Holy Spirit and how we should allow the Holy Spirit to permeate and transform our lives and decisions to be more God focused. The energy that we get from the Holy Spirit (& God) is so comforting. In Hebrew, the Holy Spirit is called RUAKH. Jesus received the Holy Spirit and passed it on to us as a gift. Jesus gets his wisdom from the Holy Spirit and is our counselor and teacher. Jesus informed his apostle's that he was going away but the Holy Spirit would remain (like the wind) in the world and in their hearts.

We saw a very good teaching video about the Holy Spirit that everyone enjoyed and 'got the picture.'

Scripture reading included: John 14:16-17, 25-26 and John 15:26-16:15 and Galatians 5:13-26.

Hebrews 10: 24-25 *And let us consider how we can spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the DAY approaching.*

We continued our Holy Spirit learning into the next week as well because it is so important. We emphasized showing KINDNESS wherever we go: to our teachers, church and non-church friends, family, co-workers, etc. We looked up the catholic church (not capitalized) to explain the meaning as 'a Universal Church.' We also say the communion of saints is God's people meeting together for fellowship. We encourage each other toward Jesus. Our Youths thought about it and added that they do not want to drift away from God, to stay on His chosen path for them. They understood that it is better for them to be around people that have a good influence on them. We also said we are human and prone to errors. Once discovered – do not continue them. God puts people in our lives that show us to sin and those that show us how NOT to sin, we-they need to choose wisely who we 'hang out' with. We encourage them to lean on their Christian mentors/us. Most people have trust issues for very good reasons. We recommended to always pray to God to ask him to provide for your needs then to make sure the idea is from Him! God has the best intentions for our success in life!

GBU

# Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23



## Slow Down Swap Party

# Slow Down Swap Party

Bring an item, Take an item at our Free Clothing Swap Event!

Slow down the consumption, slow down for the morning, and swap your lightly-used clothing

Learn more at  
[cleansd.org/events](https://cleansd.org/events)



Wednesday, May 29

10 AM

Serra Mesa Food Pantry

2650 Melbourne Dr, San  
Diego, CA 92123

No registration required!  
Limit of one grocery bag full of  
donations per person

I Love a Clean  
San Diego



Environmental  
Services

.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

Email: [missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 Jacob  
Nursery Attendant.....Hannah French