MVCF

August 2026 Newsletter

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

Pastor's Pen

2 Peter 3:18

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both
now and forever!"

Most Christians at various points in their spiritual journey have a thought like this: I'm not where I want to be in my relationship with Jesus. I wish I was more disciplined in reading my Bible every day. I wish I prayed more. I'm still struggling with the same things I struggled with five years ago, why haven't I grown more? I believe in Jesus, but I'm just not experiencing God very much right now.

If you have had thoughts like these, I have good news for you: you are not alone. Most followers of Jesus have experienced or are currently experiencing a gap between where they think they should be in their walk with Jesus, and where they actually are. Even as a pastor and someone who has been following Jesus for decades, I experience this gap in my own life. In fact, this gap is so common that it even has a term attached to it: The Sanctification Gap.

The term "Sanctification Gap" was coined more than 50 years ago by a theologian named Richard Lovelace in a journal article he wrote in *Theology Today*. *And while many of us might attribute such a gap in our own lives to laziness or a lack of effort to grow closer to Jesus, Lovelace argues that the gap is created not because we don't try hard enough, but because we are distracted away by other things.*

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Worship Schedule:

- **8:30am Sunday Adult Sunday School**
- **9:30am Sunday Worship Service**
- **10:00am Sunday Children's Bible Adventure**

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Lovelace writes: "There seemed to be a sanctification gap among Protestants, a peculiar conspiracy somehow to mislay the tradition of spiritual growth and to concentrate on side issues." He goes on to note that in more liberal churches, those side issues were centered around applying Christian ethics to the social concerns of the day. In more conservative churches, spiritual growth got displaced by an emphasis on evangelism and sharing one's faith. I would suggest that what Lovelace observed more than 50 years ago still happens in churches today, whether those churches are liberal or conservative.

Therefore, the reason we often experience a gap between where we are in our walk with Jesus and where we want to be is not because we aren't trying, but because we are distracted. And we are often distracted away from spiritual growth not by bad things but by very good things. It is good to apply Christian ethics to the current events of the day. It is good to learn how to share one's faith. It is good to be a parent. It is good to care for one's family. It is good to serve in ministry. It is good to try and help our church grow. It is good to work. But it is very easy to get so focused on these good things that we forget the best thing, which is falling more in love with Jesus and becoming more like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18). It is easy to focus so much on doing things for Jesus that we forget to stay connected to Jesus.

The answer of course, is not to drop all of these other good things and only focus on spiritual growth. But what is critical however, is that we stay focused on our spiritual growth as we engage in these various ministry activities and life obligations. Spiritual growth is never something we move on from. We must always be connected to Jesus and grow closer to Jesus (John 15:1-17).

And the more we focus on our spiritual growth, the better we will serve in the various ministries that we are a part of. The more we fall in love with Jesus and become like Jesus, the better we will be able to serve like Jesus, which will lead to a far more fruitful ministry. A branch bears fruit when it is connected to the vine (John 15:1-17). Therefore focusing on our spiritual walk with Jesus not only helps to bridge the gap between where we are and where we want to be spiritually, it also helps us to serve more effectively in the very things that distract us away from Jesus in the first place!

So as we head into the month of August, I have three questions for you as you read this: First, what is the gap in your life between where you are and where you want to be? Second, what good thing might be distracting you away from focusing on your relationship with Jesus? And finally, how can you refocus your attention this month onto your relationship with Jesus?

If you find yourself discouraged by seeing a gap in your life, be encouraged by the fact that God is in the business of spiritual formation, that he is in the business of making us more like Jesus (Romans 8:29). God is an excellent bridge builder; he bridged the gap between us and him through the cross of Jesus Christ, and he can and will bridge the gap between where you are and where you want to be.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

Small Groups:

Monday

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study at MVCF

7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study at MVCF

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Bible Study at MVCF

6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting Online

Wednesday

5:00 p.m. Picnic

7:00 p.m. Youth Group 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

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

Andy Carver	08/14
Sabina Adjibolosoo	08/15
Jean Fortanas	08/16
Samuel Davis	08/16
Becky DeLaCruz	08/23

Andy & Terri Carver	08/01

Genesis 1:27

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Psalm 139:13-14

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	3	4 **6:30pm Zoom Prayer Group**	5 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry **5:00pm Picnic**	6	7	8
9 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service **Annual Meeting**	10	11 **6:30pm Zoom Prayer Group** 7:00pm Council Meeting	12 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry **5:00pm Picnic**	13	14	15
16 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	17	18 **6:30pm Zoom Prayer Group**	19 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry **5:00pm Picnic**	20	21	22 **All Church Work Party**
23 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	24	25 **6:30pm Zoom Prayer Group**	26 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry **5:00pm Picnic**	27	28	29
30 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	31					

Vacation Bible School Thank You from Pastor Steve

For years, Vacation Bible School at MVCF was the brainchild of our dear brother Christopher French. His creative genius not only led to the world's most amazing (and complex) crafts, but to immersive sets in the sanctuary and Bible lessons perfectly crafted for every age group. VBS was Mr. French's heart and passion.

Obviously, VBS looks and feels very different since Mr. French went home to be with Jesus. And yet, as I write these thank you (halfway through VBS), it is clear that the Lord is doing a new thing in our church through VBS. A few observations:

- The start time for VBS moved from evening to late afternoon, allowing kids to participate who weren't able to stay up until 8:30 or 9pm.
- The earlier time allowed us to offer dinner to kids and families every night after VBS, allowing for greater connection with families and more relationships to be built.
- On Wednesday (our regular community picnic day), kids who weren't signed up for VBS came for the picnic, saw what was happening at VBS, wanted to participate, and we had several new kids register midweek!
- The majority of our VBS kids this year have come from our Wednesday picnics.
- The majority of our VBS kids this year do not come from church backgrounds and are new to learning about Jesus. Many of these kids have never been to any kind of Christian camp. This has led to great questions and great discussions with these kids about Jesus and faith.

Clearly the Lord is doing a new thing. Yes, VBS looks and feels different. But in a new season, different is not a bad thing. Change is not a bad thing in new circumstances. In the Bible, the men of Issachar were commended for being those "who understood the times and knew what Israel should do" (1 Chronicles 12:32). Well, at MVCF, we have our own men (mostly women actually!) who have understood the times and knew what we needed to do for VBS, and I want to thank them for the ways they have helped to make this VBS very special.

Thank you first and foremost to our VBS Director, Michele Quion. It takes courage to step into the role filled by Mr. French for so many years, and then make the necessary changes to meet the present moment. Michele has done so with grace and a wonderful love for the kids in our neighborhood. And on top of that she did crafts. Thank you Michele!

Thank you also to Joanna de Vos, for doing the Bible teaching. It is not easy to take one lesson and adapt it for three different age groups for four straight days, and Joanna did a wonderful job!

Thank you Jenny for cooking a full meal every single night!

Thank you to Terri Carver for leading games every day, and to Andrew de Vos for leading science experiments. Thank you to Matt Corrie, Matt Davis, Ladina Krokee, Alana Krokee, and Claire Krokee, for serving as group leaders. And thank you to Tony Quion, who adapted all of the worship videos and media to an outdoor setup, made shirts, and did all kinds of other things behind the scenes. And to June, Roger, Naomi, Chuck, Gayle, Lauren, Evan, and any others I am forgetting (I apologize!) who helped in various ways throughout the week, thank you!

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who prayed faithfully for VBS. We could not have done this without you!

If Mr. French could see what is happening here in this new season, I know two things would be true. First, he would be jumping up and down (ok, maybe rocking back and forth!) with excitement and praise for how God is moving through VBS. And two, to everyone who served at VBS, Mr. French would be very, very, very proud of every single one of you. Well done!

Student Ministry - Vacation Bible School 2026

Pictures Courtesy of Roger McCollough

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Therefore, 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
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Email: missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.missionvillage.church

Council Members

Pastor	Steve de Vos
Moderator	Ronda Adams
Clerk	Joanna de Vos
Financial Secretary	Jean Fortanas
Treasurer	June McCollough
Children's Ministry	*Michele Quion*
Student Ministry	Ray Jensen
Grow	***Open***
Stewardship	Frank Romeo
Care	Jenny Fiori
Reach	Matt Davis

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
Elder…… Carl Jensen

Staff

Administrative Assistant……Judy Yacob
Nursery Attendant……Hannah French