



MVCF VILLAGER

December 2011

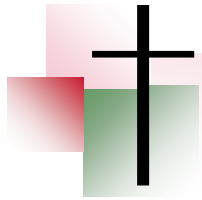
MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Carl Baker, Pastor
2650 Melbourne Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

858.278.2633 ~ FAX 858.278.3330
Email: missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net
www.mvcf.net

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 Adventures |



A SERVANT'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Church Family,

I have decided this year to ask each of you for a Christmas present. I know this is somewhat unusual but nonetheless, I'm going to do it. There are some things that I've wanted for a long time but haven't found the means to get them. I think that it is perhaps, on my part anyway, a lack of willingness to sacrifice. So, maybe you could sacrifice for me. Let me begin by sharing a list of the things I want for Christmas and then I will tell you how you can chip in to make it happen. I want:

1. A winsome spirit that will draw people to the Jesus I love and serve.
2. A willingness to accept the ideas of others without taking offense when my own ideas and needs seem neglected.
3. Better diction as I offer the teachings of Jesus from the pulpit.
4. The motivation to take ideas and leadings from the Lord and put them into action.
5. A vision for the future that is clear and consistent with Scripture.

I tend to be selfish like most of us, so I'll stop here. But I really do want you to chip in. The expense for these items is more than I can bear alone. I know because I've tried. I need your funds. Not dollars but something worth far more than money. I need you to pray for me. I need your concerted prayer efforts for these things that I have listed.

This list really is all about me. It's not a ruse to get you to contemplate these things in your own life. If that happens, so be it. But I really need you to pray for me at this time in my life when spiritual needs are at a height that would compel me to ask for your aid. I am very seldom this transparent. I need you. Thanks for your prayers. If you will give me this for Christmas, I promise not to ask for anything else. Not even fudge.

Pastor Carl

Pastor Carl

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NLT) Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Gifts to the King:

Sunday, December 11, 7:00 pm

Join us in celebrating our King! If you would like to participate with a reading, song, etc... please contact Tony DaVee at 619.298.3144.

Sweet Sunday:

Sunday, December 18, after service

Bring your favorite Christmas Sweets to share with everyone!



Christmas Eve Service:

MVCF will again have its Christmas Eve service on the 24th. The 7:00pm service will include carols, the lighting of the Christ Candle, and a short Christmas message.

Come join in the spirit of the Lord's birthday and bring a friend to share the warmth that is Christmas.

Christmas Eve Celebration:

June Angus will be having Christmas gathering at her house after the Christmas Eve Service. Join us with your favorite treat to share.

Adult Sunday School



David Casey leads the study and discussion. We meet Sundays in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Home Fellowships

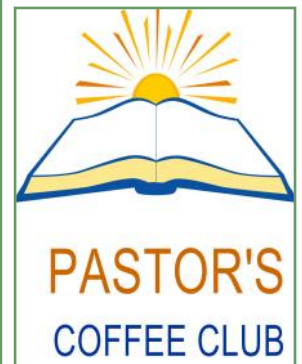
Mondays—2:00 p.m. June Angus Home
9271 Irvington Ave., 92123 858.277.4156

Tuesdays—4:00 p.m. Mary Jo Cooper Home
9165 Rebecca Ave., 92123 858.278.2046

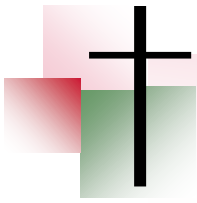
Thursdays—7:00 p.m. Thibodeaux Home
3228 Towser St., 92123 858.569.0051

Fridays—7:00 p.m. Armstead Home
3336 Stellar Dr., 92123 858.278.3389

Sunday—6:30 p.m. Young Adult Home Fellowship



Wednesday,
December 14, 2011
10:00 a.m.



BELIEVE AND LOVE: SIMPLE REMINDERS OF GOD'S GRACE

I am still a work in progress, and if you're honest, you are too. Honestly, how many times a week do we have difficulty keeping track of God's love for us? Ten? Fifteen? Twenty? THIRTY!?! I know. Some of you are right up in the hundreds with me. At times our Christianity is freeing, at other times it's binding. Sometimes it doesn't matter just how much we tell ourselves the amazing truths of the gospel, our brains just have a hard time receiving it. Welcome to Earth: sin beaten and war ravaged. Our temporary home.

There is an improper belief that pastors have it all together. At times, we are seen as the ones who totally understand the grace of God PERFECTLY. Well, in case some of you believe that, I am here to set the record straight: we don't. We struggle just as much as you do. We too see ourselves as unlovable at times, we also feel condemned even though deep down we know that "there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).

We still sin too. We fail to behave perfectly in ways that many congregants might find shocking if they themselves have not recognized the depth of their own sinful struggles. But this is the journey that we are on. It began when we received Christ, and it never ends. Let us take a pause in our busy lives and investigate some truth together. Are you ready?

We are not perfect in and of our own doing. But Jesus is, and *He* has perfected us by *His* own doing.

"For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." Hebrews 10:14

That's right. He (Jesus) has perfected all those being set apart for God. How? *By one offering*. Jesus offered Himself once for sin, and this offering initiated the New Covenant. God saw His Son's sacrifice as perfect, and therefore sees we who believe as perfect. Without sin. Without imperfect behavior. Without moral failures. I am perfect because of the sacrifice of my Jesus. Not because of my behavior. How about you?

God has truly made this New agreement with mankind bullet proof. We receive Christ once and we begin an eternal lifetime of knowing God. The God who has revealed Himself as Abba.

"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" Romans 8:15

God. Our daddy. Perfectly patient, gentle, and accepting of His children. Daddy is close to us in our fear, moral failure (no matter what the magnitude), and our insecurities. God has taken care of it all. He has taken away the one beast that kept us from Him: sin. We are safe, secure, and intimately close to God.

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own..." 1 Corinthians 6:19

He also does not require much from us. Just simple belief, and simple love. Almost too *simple* right? Some of you may be thinking "but what about all of Jesus' commands like loving God with all our heart soul mind and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves?!?! That isn't simple. It takes a lot of work!" Well let's take a look.

³⁵ *One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:* ³⁶ *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"*
³⁷ *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ^[a] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. ^[b] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."* Matthew 22:35-40

Alright...so...how you doing with those two commandments? Some of you may be doing well, others not so much. Especially with the first commandment. It's one thing to love a neighbor but just how do you love God with all of that? The good news is we don't have to sit down and figure out exactly what it means to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Why? *Because these two commandments summed up the Law*. As much as these are used as commands for Christians today, it is actually a lot more simple than that. Christians are no longer under the Law because Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law perfectly for us.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Matthew 5:17

"Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes." Romans 10:4

Continued from previous page

*"For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh,^[a] God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.^[b] And so he condemned sin in the flesh,⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might **be fully met in us**, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:3-4*

So loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength? Yes. That has been fulfilled as well by Jesus. He was the only person who truly could love God perfectly. So what is required of us? Take a look.

*"This is His commandment that **we believe** in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, **and love one another**, just as He commanded us." 1 John 3:23*

That's right. Believe and love one another.

This is not a two point check list for Christians daily living. This is a *state of being*. It is who we are! Those who genuinely believe will love other Christians. This does not mean we won't fail at specific acts of love, but that *deep down we love the people of God because they are from God*. And so are we!

Those who follow His simple commands are also loving God by doing so.

"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome..." 1 John 5:3

Yes my friends. Not burdensome. Just simple belief and simple love for one another. In my journey, simple things often get complicated. I often forget the relentlessly grace filled message of the gospel. I do fail often, I am not perfect in behavior, and yes I am a youth pastor. But I am here on the journey with you, desperately needing constant reminders of the grace of God. Thanks for taking this journey with me today through some simple reminders of God's grace. I needed it, and something tells me you did too.

Andy Nelson, Youth Pastor



Legacy Women's Conference
Ladies mark your calendars for
March 2-4, 2012

\$140 for the weekend
all meals included.

To sign up register call
858.278.2633

There will be a sign up sheet
in the Fellowship Hall
after Service on Sundays.

Youth Group
7th to 12th grade
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Food Pantry
Open Wednesdays
10:00—2:00 p.m.
Second Saturday of the month
10:00—2:00 p.m.

Church Camp 2012
May 11-13, 2012
See Scott Fiori to start a payment plan



MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

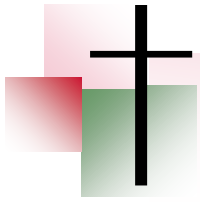
As I write this I realize that I have been a part of this fellowship for quite some time, 30 years to be exact! In 1981 I received the Lord into my life, was married to Leah and became a part of this church. Over time I have been involved in different ways including, teaching Sunday school, buildings/grounds maintenance, evangelism outreach, home fellowship host/leader, youth group, men's retreats, VBS, and probably some other stuff I can't remember.

I only mention these things because in retrospect I realize that God was (and is) faithful to give me the power and strength to accomplish a bunch of differing tasks. Many of these I felt inadequate and maybe under skilled to do really well, but God made it happen. Jesus said *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* 2 Corinthians 12:9

This is meant as a reminder to myself and an encouragement to others to try new and different things and see how much God can't wait to "fill in" where we "think" we don't have what it takes. This principle can be applied within the church, at work and in our day to day lives. Always be open to learning and trying new things---who knows what might happen!

God bless and Merry Christmas! Ned Peek





GIVING ALL WE HAVE

The watchword for us all, no matter where God leads us, will be “love.” Love is the one quality the world can discern that sets Christians apart and makes Christianity distinct from every other religion. If we fail to act on this truth, we will lose our right to be heard and will enter the post-Christian era for good.

What is our own personal role to be as we face the travail of the coming years? The problem of overpopulation and hunger, already upon us, are too great even for governments to handle, let alone individual Christians. It is one thing to minister to a hand full of hungry Nepalis at our door by giving them food, money, seeds or a job, but when individuals become multitudes, what will we do?...

It seems that God is telling us simply to share with them whatever we have, and when it runs low, to try to get more, and when there is no more, to leave the issue to him. He is telling us to enter into their suffering without concern for the outcome. He is reminding us that, whatever we have done for the least of our brothers, we have done for him [see Mathew 25:40]. We cannot, as some do, restrict the interpretation of “brothers” to mean fellow-Christians alone. We wince when we hear Christians refer to much of the agony of mankind as the judgment of God; it may be, but it is not for us to say or even to think.

There are moments when we long for Christ to come again and feed the multitudes, not five thousand only, but fifty thousand, even fifty million. He could do it. Those first disciples had only two fish and a few loaves, but they gave them all they had. Is this not the word to us today-to give him all our loaves and fish, to give him everything we have? Them, who can say what he would be able accomplish in our time through us?

Thomas Hale

Submitted by Gene House - Stewardship





IT ONLY TAKES A GIFT

We have a blessed opportunity again this year to help restore and enhance the relationship between a child and a parent in prison. In the process of helping, we have the awesome opportunity to be our Lord's instrument to restore the eternal relationship between a heavenly Father and his children. How? It's Angel Tree Time! It's your opportunity to purchase, on behalf of a prisoner, gifts for their children for Christmas.

That's the power of a gift given in the love of Jesus Christ

It is very important to note that each gift from us is given on behalf of the incarcerated parent. This is one small way to show the child their parent loves and misses them.

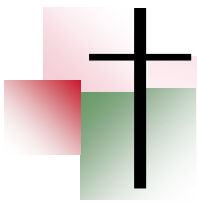
We have about forty children who will be getting two gifts each, just like before, one "practical" and one "fun". We will again be partnering with our brothers and sisters at Trinity Presbyterian and Living Word Christian Fellowship.

Help, Help, Help

You are invited to the **Wrapping Party** Sunday, December 18th after service. As always, lunch will be served. Also, and even more importantly, I need help delivering the gifts. Generally this is done the week before Christmas. There is nothing more wonderful than meeting the kids and getting to pray with and love on the families!

Please call or text Christopher French for more information at **858-735-5923**





JUST FOR FUN



THIS MONTH'S birthdays

10—Steve Brunson
13—Elaine Morgan
14—Jim Ryer
21—Roger McCollough
21—Ronda Adams
23—Brenda Casey
24—Christina Jacobs
24—Kaden Baker
25—Ed Clark
27—Betty Thomas
30—Heuldana Agiro
31—Richard Herron



THIS MONTH'S anniversaries

02—Mike & Janetta Stephen
09—Mike & Terri Loren
26—Tom & Inez Richley
27—Doug & Margi Eno



Some parts of the Christmas story, as commonly told, aren't actually recounted in Scripture. Which of the following details is recorded in the Bible?

- A. Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem, and Joseph walked alongside her.
- B. Angels announced that a Savior, the Messiah (or Christ), had been born.
- C. There were three wise men.
- D. Shepherds and wise men (or Magi) worshiped Baby Jesus together.
- E. None of the above.

Answer: B (See Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2:1-20, especially v. 11.)

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

- Ephesians 2:8-9



JUST FOR FUN

SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.

PUZZLE

A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

"He _____ and _____ his _____

15 20 10 17

in the _____ of the _____ And they _____

13 4 11 24

_____, for then _____

19 16 14 6

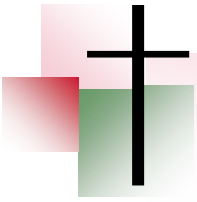
_____ to the _____ of _____."

3 12 25 7






M I C A H 5 : 4 , N I V

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV





DECEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	2 6:30 p.m. Bunco 7 p.m. Armstead HF	3
4 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Kearny Mesa Conv. Visit 6:30 p.m. Jacob's Young Adult HF 	5 2 p.m. June Angus HF	6 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	7 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group	8 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	9 7 p.m. Armstead HF	10 8 a.m. God's Extended Hand 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry
11 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Gifts to the King 	12 2 p.m. June Angus HF	13 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. Council Mtg.	14 10 a.m. Pastor's Coffee Club 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group	15 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	16 7 p.m. Armstead HF	17 8:00 Men's Breakfast
18 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Jacob's Young Adult HF 	19 2 p.m. June Angus HF	20 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	21 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group	22	23	24 
25 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 	26 2 p.m. June Angus HF	27 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	28 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE
						

