



# MVCF VILLAGER

**March 2011**

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## MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**Carl Baker, Pastor**  
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[www.servants4jesus.com](http://www.servants4jesus.com)

### 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 recently came across a phrase that really hit home. The phrase is *"Fatal Success"*. It's much similar to a phrase I heard at a *Billy Graham School of Evangelism* that I attended many years ago. The phrase there was *"Destination Sickness"*. These are phrases that epitomize our culture and the world in general. It goes like this. A young couple lies in bed dreaming of their future - what they want to become, what they want their life to look like in the future. It may include an education, a certain car in the driveway of a nice home, a great marriage and a couple of children who are athletic, musical and bright. (Note that God is not in this list) Then in the blink of an eye, twenty years go by and they awaken in a similar bed. They have reached all or most of these goals only to realize that they haven't brought the happiness they had planned on. They have reached their destination only to find a sickness of the soul. The things they thought would bring them happiness have failed them. Success has become fatal because it has left emptiness and they now have no idea where to turn. And if they did, they ponder, it might be too late.

I'm reading a book right now entitled, "A Wasted Life" where the author addresses this phenomenon that I've been preaching about for years. The answer is really simple. Make sure when the dreams are forming that they are dreams of eternal value. If you place all your marbles in the arena of worldly success they will tarnish and disappoint you. But a life invested in Christ and His Kingdom will never disappoint.

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 (NIV)*

Love in Christ,

Pastor Carl

*PS Fortunately this couple was wrong. It's never too late to change our destination.*

### For a Laugh

A little boy went over to a pastor's house, where the pastor was doing some carpentry in his garage. The boy simply stood there and watched him for quite a long time. After a while, the preacher wondered why this boy was watching him and was finally so curious that he stopped and said, "Son, are you trying to pick up some pointers on how to build something?"

The little boy replied, "No. I am just waiting to hear what a preacher says when he hits his thumb with a hammer."

Often, we will find out what we are made of by what comes out of our mouth in difficult times.

### Adult Sunday School



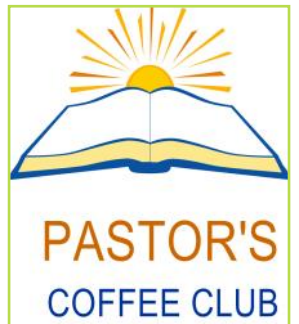
David Casey leads the study and discussion. We meet Sundays in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

### Home Fellowship Groups

Monday—Angus at 2:00 p.m.  
Tuesday—Cooper at 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday—Thibodeaux at 7:00 p.m.  
Friday—Cooper at 4:00 p.m.  
Friday—Armstead at 7:00 p.m.

### Study Groups

Revelation Study—Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.  
See Bulletin or Call Church Office (858.278.2633) for More Information



Wednesday, March 9 10:00 a.m.



# GOOD NEWS FOR THE UNFINISHED CHRISTIAN

I often feel unqualified to write about the good news of Jesus and His sacrifice for our sins. I suppose that there are several reasons for this. Chief among them is that I have a hard time holding onto the awesome truths of the gospel; I feel if I am to profess the truths of God's unfathomable goodness, then I need to be totally confident in that which I write about or teach.

Recently I revisited an article I wrote about a month ago called *Victims of Grace*, and as I read it I thought, 'Wow, I sure sound like an expert on the grace of God!' Then a few moments passed by, and I thought I really do sound like an expert! But I am so not!" My wife was standing next to me and I told her about my revelation. She assured me that I knew the truth. It was just hard for me to live it because I am human. Nice isn't it, to have a wife who is both brilliant and beautiful to remind me of these things?

I forget that I am a human sometimes. I forget even more often that God doesn't expect me to be anything else. I could be alone in these temporary bouts of amnesia, but I sort of doubt it. I think often times people come to faith in Jesus Christ and receive His free gift of forgiveness and eternal life, and then get sidetracked from it. It seems like once we are saved, we think that we should automatically be morally perfect. We then get hard to work on a religious expectations check list that we must strictly adhere to daily to attain this moral perfection, this instead of living by God's pure un-adulterated grace.

Speaking of making lists, maybe yours looks like mine:

1. Spend more time reading the bible than doing anything else
2. Pray every spare minute that I get. No free time.
3. Pray for every single person I meet
4. Never get impatient. Impatience is for the weak.
5. NEVER doubt God
6. Never spend money on yourself
7. Never wrestle with what it means to be a Christian
8. Never forget to do the dishes for you wife.
9. Watch only G rated movies
10. Listen only to music by DC Talk and Michael W. Smith
11. Never take fun time for yourself. Ministry is life.
12. Never struggle with lust
13. Love people perfectly. Always.
14. Obey the laws of the land perfectly.
15. Never fail God.
16. Never doubt His love.
17. Never speed.

Let's just say that if God held me to same standard I hold myself to, I would be a lost cause. Lists like these are not totally unproductive however. They can serve a great purpose: to show you how much you fail at keeping any standards.

On Mount Sinai God gave the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel. These commandments were a glimpse into the perfect morality of God. They showed His standards for the people Israel, and ultimately His standard of perfection for all mankind. They were His "check-list" for humanity. Because they were such, these commandments did another thing: they revealed failure. They revealed the sin of the chosen Jews. They also ultimately reveal the sin of the entire world. Think about this for a minute as we consider two of these commandments:

6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.

Continued on page 4

## **Good News For The Unfinished Christian** (continued from page 3)

While most of us have not literally murdered someone, we have done so indirectly. Jesus taught that hatred for another person was the same as murder in God's eyes (Matthew 5:21). Likewise, He taught that lusting after an individual was identical to committing adultery (Matthew 5:28). So, because I have both hated and lusted, I have broken two of the ten standards on God's check list, thus proving myself to be a sinner. This was and is the whole purpose of the Law. It offers a glimpse at God's perfect morality, shows us how ridiculously far short we fall, and then leads us to receive God's free gift of forgiveness in Jesus. As Galatians 3 says, the law was added because of transgressions. It was added to show sin so that when Jesus came we would let Him save us through faith. Both the Ten Commandments and the sacrificial system (animal sacrifices to bring forgiveness) ultimately pointed to Jesus. The Law screams "GOD IS PERFECT. You are not. Let HIM save you." The bottom line is that God's standard for us has been forever met in Christ. Period. God's check list for us is perfectly and totally completed and nothing can say otherwise. So why on Earth would we create our own standards to hold ourselves to? Are we God that we can say what moral perfection is and what it is not?

Let me close with some confessions. I am a Christian. I love God very much. I love writing about Him. I love teaching His word. I love the grace that He has for me in Jesus Christ. I am also unfaithful to Him, a doubter of the first degree; a hater; an adulterer; an idolater; a murderer. But these actions are not my identity. No, the Blood of Christ says otherwise. I am a beloved Son who has been forever reunited with His Creator through the all sufficient blood of Jesus.

We don't need to have a list of rules to live for God. We just need God. We need God's acceptance of us through faith in Jesus. We need His Spirit to come make His home in us so that we can have the intimacy that we lost so long ago.

The only moral check-list that served a purpose was God's. It took the very beast of sin that separated us from Him in the beginning of time, and used it to bring us to the cross. Our sins no longer need bring us shame. This is why Christ came. We have only room for celebration in our brief lives on Earth, and our forever lives thereafter.

This is the good news. This is the great news. This is the excellent news. This is the stupendous news.

God loves you and wants you. Believe it.

*"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst." (1 Timothy 1:15)*

Andy Nelson, Youth Pastor

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## **GEH Meal Prep - Help Needed**

Hi all, I'm planning the homeless meal for Saturday, March 12, and would like to know what people are able to do. We cook for about 140 people.

If I have enough help, I can cook on Friday afternoon or evening. Depending on how much help I have cooking will determine the meal.

Let me know if you have time during the week of March 12 to help with shopping, cooking (including any slicing and dicing that may be necessary) and/or serving on Saturday.

Shopping can be done through the week of the GEH meal, anytime. The cooking I'll schedule based on when people are available. I'll need a couple people early Saturday morning to help with prep. But we'll need servers there from about 9:40 to 10:45 ish.

There is a great time in getting together. Let me know if you are interested.

We serve on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at:

God's Extended Hand Mission

On the corner of Island Ave and 16<sup>th</sup> St.

Contact Mary Jo Cooper for details and if you need a ride to the mission.

[coopmjc@san.rr.com](mailto:coopmjc@san.rr.com)

858-278-2046

TIA and God bless,

Julie Brennan

(619) 583-0630



# EVENTS & JUST FOR FUN

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 04—Darryl Angus
- 05—Tony DaVee
- 07—Van Thibodeaux
- 14—Matt Leigh
- 16—Admasu Agiro
- 17—Bill Black
- 18—Luke Jacobs
- 23—Michelle Miner
- 25—Susie Manies-Scott
- 26—Chuck Sones
- 27—Mike Loren
- 27—Sage Miner-Kelley
- 27—Tom Richley
- 28—Inez Richley
- 30—Daniel Wloczewski

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 05—Jean & Michele Fortanas

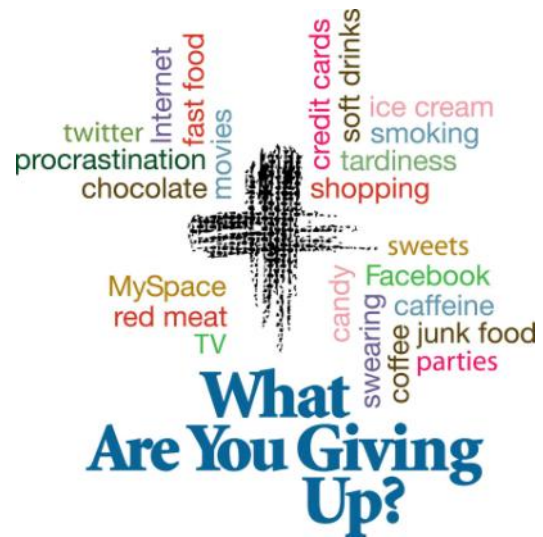
Just before the Last Supper (John 13), Jesus took off his outer robe, poured water into a basin and began washing his disciples' feet. One disciple, however, protested having the Lord wash his feet. Jesus told the reluctant man that unless he allowed Jesus to wash his feet, he really had no share in Christ's leadership. The disciple then relented. He said Jesus could wash not only his feet but his hands and head, as well.

Choose the name of this disciple from the list below:

- A. Peter
- B. John
- C. Andrew
- D. Judas



Answer: A (See John 13:1-9.)



### Serra Mesa Food Pantry

Open Wednesdays and the Fourth Saturday of each month

10:00—2:00 p.m.

### Ash Wednesday

Service

March 9, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for May 6-8, 2011

Family Camp 2011

See Scott Fiori to start a payment plan

### Youth Group

7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.



# JUST FOR KIDS

## Forgiveness BRACELET

Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

### What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape
- Thin ribbon or yarn
- Small hole punch

### What you do:

1. Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
2. Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
3. On the paper, write "Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37, NIV).
4. Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
5. Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
6. Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.

## WHY FORGIVE?

This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others — and why.

**Directions:** Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.

"And \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ."  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV



# MARCH 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	<b>2</b> 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Revelation Study	<b>3</b> 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	<b>4</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Armstead HF	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Kearny Mesa Convalescent Visit	<b>7</b> 2 p.m. June Angus HF	<b>8</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. Council Mtg.	<b>9</b> 10 a.m. Pastor's Coffee Club 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF  Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm	<b>10</b> 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	<b>11</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Armstead HF	<b>12</b> 8 a.m. God's Extended Hand
<b>13</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Daylight Savings Time Begins  	<b>14</b> 2 p.m. June Angus HF	<b>15</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	<b>16</b> 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Revelation Study	<b>17</b> 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	<b>18</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Armstead HF	<b>19</b> 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
<b>20</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship  	<b>21</b> 2 p.m. June Angus HF	<b>22</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	<b>23</b> 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—MVCF 7 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Revelation Study	<b>24</b> 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	<b>25</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Armstead HF	<b>26</b> 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry
<b>27</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship  	<b>28</b> 2 p.m. June Angus HF	<b>29</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting				

