



MVCF VILLAGER

October 2011

MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Carl Baker, Pastor
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San Diego, CA 92123

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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 Adventures |



A SERVANT'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Church Family,

I am passing on to you my second installment of my journal of this past summer's trip to Ethiopia. Please understand that this was written as notes and there may be a few incomplete sentences. My intention is to bring Ethiopia a little closer to your heart. Please keep Ethiopia and especially the ministries we support in your prayers. On October 16th we will be having a special "Missions" service and we will be sharing slides and experiences of that trip.

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Well, it's about 4 am and I guess I have to call this a new day. I wish there had been more sleep. I have been up since I about 1:30 am. Mosquitoes and fear of them have kept me up. Around 3:30 am cock roaches invaded the hotel room along with various and sundry other bugs. I am dressed and waiting the night out. Admasu is so proud of me and my adapting ability. If he could see me now! I don't do bugs well.

I just read this from Morning and Evening Devotions:

Morning Verse

"Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge, etc." 2Peter 1:5,6

If thou wouldst enjoy the eminent grace of the full assurance of faith, under the blessed Spirit's influence, and assistance, do what the Scripture tells thee, "Give diligence." Take care that thy faith is of the right kind—that it is not a mere belief of doctrine, but a simple faith, depending on Christ, and on Christ alone. Give diligent heed to thy courage. Plead with God that He would give thee the face of a lion, that thou mayest, with a consciousness of right, go on boldly. Study well the Scriptures, and get knowledge; for a knowledge of doctrine will tend very much to confirm faith. Try to understand God's Word; let it dwell in thy heart richly. When thou hast done this, "Add to thy knowledge temperance." Take heed to thy body: be temperate without. Take heed to thy soul: be temperate within. Get temperance of lip, life, heart, and thought. Add to this, by God's Holy Spirit, patience; ask Him to give thee that patience which endureth affliction, which, when it is tried, shall come forth as gold. Array yourself with patience, that you may not murmur nor be depressed in your afflictions. When that grace is won look to godliness. Godliness is something more than religion. Make God's glory your object in life; live in His sight; dwell close to Him; seek for fellowship with Him; and thou hast "godliness"; and to that add brotherly love. Have a love to all the saints: and add to that a charity, which openeth its arms to all men, and loves their souls. When you are adorned with these jewels, and just in proportion as you practise these heavenly virtues, will you come to know by clearest evidence "your calling and election." "Give diligence," if you would get assurance, for lukewarmness and doubting very naturally go hand in hand.—*Morning and Evening, Charles Spurgeon, 19th century pastor.*

Pretty cool! Just what I needed.

You're not going to believe this. The bugs are gone. It's about 5:30 am. About 4:30 they packed up and left. They came out, did their thing (which was to keep me up all night) and then left. Amazing. I actually dozed for a little while.

Off to Metu. Hard roads and slow. Incredible sights. Baboons, Monkeys, people buying and selling, they are a beautiful people. Great trip. Arrived in Metu early afternoon. Great meal i.e. spaghetti, injeeera, bread and misc. You don't ask about the misc. Sometimes it's better not to know. Spent some time on the internet. Asleep at 4pm. Missed dinner. Slept 15 hours. Didn't know it could be done.

Continued on next page

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Great night's sleep. very rested. Good breakfast. Scrambled eggs, oatmeal and bread with jam. Went to the compound worker's morning devotional. Great music. A few people can fill the small chapel with vibrant sound! Admasu spoke. Three languages spoken I think. One was English-very little. I recognized the Lord's prayer (in another language) at the end and prayed along in English. Headed out now to Gore orphanage to see the kids.

Great experience at the orphanage with the kids and workers. More bread and coffee. It's a tradition everywhere we go.

Then to the Coffee farm. One mile straight down hill. I kept wondering if we would ever stop declining. I knew we would eventually have to go back up. When we got to the bottom I called Admasu over to me. I told him I had directions for him. I told him to write on my tombstone, "He loved Ethiopia so much he wanted to be buried here." Right here! But I got up and actually made it back up the hill to the truck. The humidity was horrific and I was soaked. But we came, we saw (the coffee) and we conquered (the hill). Saw more monkeys today. Great breakfast and lunch. It's 3 pm and nothing to do but rest and shower.

PS Senyo tried to kill me today with a spear used by the plantation guard. Alas, he had mercy so I am here to write.

This bush country is incredible. The vegetation is so thick and the ground is so fertile. There are places where people are starving but what you see on TV can lead to a real misunderstanding of Ethiopia in general. They contend with a lot of stuff including illness that can't be readily treated like it is in the US but they are, for the most part, a very healthy looking population. The obesity we see among Americans is nearly non-existent here. They walk miles a day.

I hope you tune in next month to hear more about my life-changing experience and our ministry together in Ethiopia. Until then...

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Carl

Pastor Carl

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.

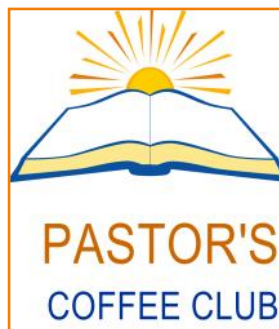
Home Fellowships

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



**PASTOR'S
COFFEE CLUB**

Wednesday,
October 12, 2011
10:00 a.m.

Young Adult Home Fellowship

1st & 3rd Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

7362 Stanford Ave, La Mesa, CA 91941 619.337.0616



THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Christianity is not about rules and regulations. It's not about good moral teaching. It's not about doing our best in life so that we get on God's good side. It is not ultimately even about us at all. Jesus did not come here to make bad people good. He did not come simply to be a good moral teacher. He did not come to show us how to get on God's good side by our own strength.

He came to give us the greatest gift He could: Himself. Jesus, who is life itself, came to give us His life. Eternal life.

So often we throw around Christian jargon about how people need to "give their lives to Christ" so that they can be saved. We have all heard preachers call people forward to "surrender their lives to Christ." But really, honestly, is this what saves people? Let's think about it. How would me giving God my totally fragile, broken and sin filled life bring about my forgiveness and promise my ultimate deliverance from death? Sorry, I don't have THAT much magic to offer.

The reality is, nowhere in the New Testament will one find any letter or book urging people to "give their lives to Christ." This mindset is simply absent from scripture. But what is encouraged is people believing and receiving His eternal life as a free gift. Such is the promise of Romans 6:23.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Jesus is life. Whoever believes in Him has eternal life; His life. As John says in His letter "Whoever has the Son has life" (1 John 5:11-12), and such is the miracle of the gospel: *the life of Christ becomes our life*. We cannot be saved by simply giving our lives to Jesus and surrendering all to Him (whatever that really means). We can only be saved by trusting in His sacrifice for our sins, recognizing that He is completely and totally enough for our right standing with God, and that we cannot ever do anything to be right or stay right with Him. It must be a free gift from God. It must be grace.

So many teachers have made Christianity a game of surrender to God, where its proponents must constantly surrender any and all areas of life to God. While there is truth to letting God carry the burdens of our life, including our failures, following Jesus is not about making a list of things to surrender. It's about letting His eternal life have its way in and through us. The gospel is not just a set of facts to believe. It is a person. A living, breathing God who laid His earthly body down to save us, and who offers us union, intimacy, and a Life which has no end.

We often quote verses like Luke 14:27 that state that we must deny ourselves and carry our cross to be Jesus' disciples. But the reality is Jesus' message was to those who followed Him during His earthly ministry. This was not some eternal truth that we must daily wrestle with, denying our needs and desires and "surrendering" them to God. Jesus' cross led to His death, burial, and resurrection. So where does our cross lead? The same place!

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

Paul did not consider Himself to be carrying any cross. He considered Himself dead. If we carry our crosses correctly, they lead directly to our own Calvary where we are crucified with Jesus, our own private tomb where we are buried with Him, and our own front row seat to that glorious resurrection where we are raised with Him. It's *His* life that saves us (Romans 5:10), and *our* lives that are totally and completely, irrevocably intertwined with His:

"For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." Colossians 3:3

Yes. We are dead. And Christ lives. We live because He lives. His life is our life. And we become God's possession. What a gift that simple faith brings. As we understand our salvation in a deeper way, it becomes less and less about "giving things up," and more about being who we really are: brand new, God loving creations who have been given the Life of Christ.

Sound too simple? It was never meant to be complicated.

Sound too good? It must be the gospel.

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." 1 John 5: 11-12

Andy Nelson, Youth Pastor

Spaghetti Dinner Church Camp Fund Raiser
was/is a huge success!!
Thank you to all who participated!!!

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

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

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

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



SOME THOUGHTS ON SECULAR VOCATION

by Tom Kraeuter

I should probably warn you. I am standing on a soap box. No, you can't see it, but it's there just the same. So when I start ranting, don't say I didn't let you know it was coming.

I am tired of Christian leaders making people feel guilty because those people are not involved in "ministry." I have too often heard pastors say that everything we do should have some sort of "ministry" value. Of course, some don't say it quite so directly, but they imply it in the way they phrase their statements. Even those who would verbally disagree with such a statement often imply that ministry endeavors are more important by overly emphasizing such endeavors.¹

Scripture declares, "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). *Whatever* you do is pretty all-inclusive. It really doesn't leave much out. But note that it doesn't say that everything you do should be evangelizing or preaching.

Personally, I like what Martin Luther said. He phrased it like this, "The cobbler gives God the highest praise when he makes the finest pair of shoes." The shoemaker isn't speaking forth the Word of God, yet he is doing what he does to God's glory. He is doing his most excellent work, putting forth his best efforts. He is clearly in line with Ecclesiastes 9:10, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might..." Doing the best job you can do at your vocation brings God the highest honor.

In Western Christianity, we have a tendency to separate the "sacred" from the "secular." We like to compartmentalize those areas and keep them at a distance from one another. After all, God must think more highly of the churchy stuff, right? The "sacred" must be better.

Yet, as a child of God, I have been made holy. *I* am sacred. His Spirit indwells me and I am holy in His sight. It does not matter, then, if I'm teaching a worship seminar or laying carpet. In fact, I can teach a worship seminar begrudgingly and half-heartedly, and in God's sight it would be putrid. Later I could lay carpet and, by giving my best effort in order to glorify God, the Lord would be honored in a much greater way.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, *as for the Lord and not for men*, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. *You are serving the Lord Christ*" (Colossians 3:23-24, author's emphasis). Our work--secular or ministry--is all for the Lord. We need to get over the idea that ministry somehow trumps secular vocations.

You see, if everyone on the planet "got saved" tomorrow, we would still have a need for garbage collectors, factory workers, plumbers, engineers, architects, cashiers, cooks, salespeople, taxi drivers, etc. Those are not ministry positions. To be sure, we all should be ready and willing to share our faith when the opportunity arises. But the

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Lord does not call all of us into "ministry" type positions. Some honor God by building roads. Others by making ice cream. Still others by flying planes or fighting disease. In any or all of these positions--and a myriad of others--we can do what we're doing to the glory of God. We can honor Him by doing with all our might the things He has given us the opportunity to do.

Look at it this way: If indeed all of those varied occupations are necessary, then God leading us to participate in one of those positions is just as much a "calling" as that of a preacher.

Speaking as one who has been in full-time ministry for more than twenty years, ministry is nice, even tremendously rewarding, but from the Lord's perspective I'm really no better than my friend the factory worker or his wife who cleans people's houses for a living. My friends who are missionaries to China are not superior in God's sight to my friend who helps build cars in Michigan. God loves us all equally. He gives us gifts and abilities to fulfill His plans and purposes, whether those plans and purposes include preaching or detective work, missions work or driving a truck.

1. I am not suggesting that pastors should cease from recruiting people into ministry. That should indeed be a part of their role. But honestly, it's not a lot different than years ago when I was in sales as a vocation. I often tried to convince others that sales, when done in a righteous and godly way, is a great profession. I still believe that. I have a friend who helps owners of small businesses to be more successful in business. He often tries to convince people that they should be in business for themselves. I think it should be that way. If we're truly endeavoring to honor the Lord through our vocation, then we should be completely "sold" on the idea that it is a good and noble profession, worthy of others being involved in it. This includes pastors.

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"God is in the business of taking old pieces of our lives, refinishing them and, at just the right time, surprising us with newfound beauty."

—Susan Duke



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Monday October 31st
5:30 to 8:30

Let us continue to bless our community and our fellowship with a safe and very enjoyable place to spend their Halloween evening. We need your help to make this work. We bless the community with music, FREE games, FREE candy, FREE munchies and safe place to kick back and watch their children have safe Halloween experience. This year we would like to reinstitute our FREE raffle give away.

What we need:

- 1.) VOLUNTEERS Harvest Festival coordinating team
VOLUNTEERS Harvest Festival sign up/ raffle ticket booth
VOLUNTEERS to man the game booths in ½ hour shifts
VOLUNTEERS to cook food
VOLUNTEERS to set up and tear down of game booths
VOLUNTEERS to DJ/ Announcer
VOLUNTEERS to bake pies, cakes, goodies for the Cake Walk
- 2.) CANDY, CANDY, CANDY!! (individually wrapped)
Donations barrels will be in foyer starting 10/2/11
- 3.) Soda donations (2 litre bottles)
- 4.) Small new toys or gadgets for raffle

We will have a sign up circulating through the fellowship hall after church service on Sunday. You can also contact Christopher French at 858-735-5923 or call the church office 858-278-2633.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP



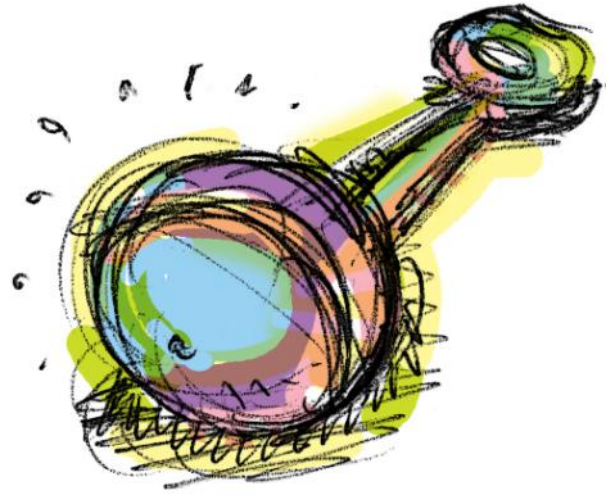
JUST FOR FUN

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

06—Susan Baker
10—Sara Davidson
11—Mike Stephen
12—Russ Armstead
14—Jennifer French
14—Pauline Casey
16—Sylvia Flanagan
19—Billy Himes
19—David Stinson
20—Luisa Johnson
22—Connor Guenther
24—Titus Jacobs
25—Jenny Fiori
27—Elaina Aray
27—Kathleen Staley
31—Chris Hill

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

02—Red & Van Thibodeaux



Many new parents choose “Bible names” for their babies. Of the following names, which two (one boy’s and one girl’s) are not found in Scripture?

- A. Eunice
- B. Priscilla
- C. Judith
- D. Clara
- E. Derek
- F. Obed
- G. Reuben
- H. Joel

Answer: D and E



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

A COOKIE SMILE

Make these cheerful lollipop cookies to share.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 roll of sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Cookie sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Cellophane treat bags
- Ribbon



What you do:

1. Freeze the roll of dough.
2. Cut dough into ¼-inch slices.
3. Place slices 2 inches apart on cookie sheet.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for five minutes.
5. Remove cookies from oven and place a stick into the bottom of each cookie (about 1 inch into the dough).
6. Return cookies to the oven until done, three to five more minutes.
7. After cookies are cool, make a “face” on each one, using frosting and sprinkles.
8. Put cookies into bags and tie with a ribbon. Then give away these edible smiles!

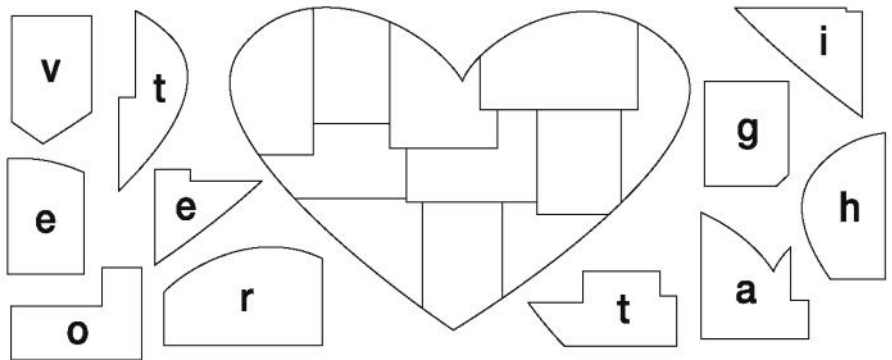


HOW TO GIVE

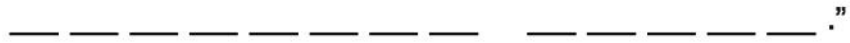
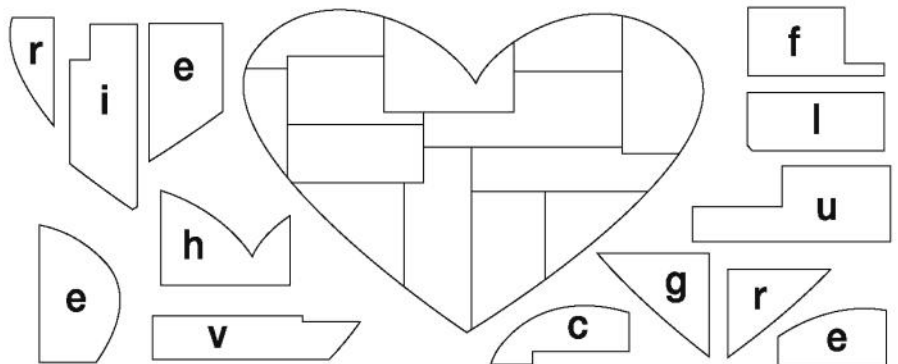
We can give in a variety of ways, including our money, possessions and time. But God says there’s only one attitude to have when we give.

Finish the puzzles by matching the pieces and writing out the letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.

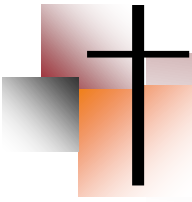
“Each of you should give what you have decided in your ...



... not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a ...



Answers: heart to give, cheerful giver



OCTOBER 2011

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

