



# MVCF VILLAGER

**September 2011**

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## MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

**Carl Baker, Pastor**  
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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 want to share my journal of my Ethiopian adventure with you. Please understand that there are many incomplete sentences. These are notes and scribbblings with very little editing to the original documents. When I would have time, mostly in the evenings, I would sit down and scramble to write a few words. God richly blessed me on this journey and I hope my journal will bring Ethiopia a little closer to your heart. Over the next few months I will be posting excerpts since the entire journal is too lengthy for the newsletter. My hope is that the mention of places and people will prompt you to stop and say a prayer from time to time.

## **Saturday, July 23, 2011**

Susan dropped Senyo and me off at the San Diego Airport where we met Admasu and boarded the plane for a 10:30 flight for Dulles. We're on our way.

## **Sunday, July 24, 2011**

A few hours at Dulles, then a 12 hour flight to Addis Ababa. With the 10 hour jump in time, we got there on Monday morning.

## **Monday, July 25, 2011**

We arrived in Addis Ababa. Terfasa (development coordinator for the Synod) and his driver, (Tesumah) picked us up. We went to the compound and rested for awhile. Then we went to restaurant to eat. Middle class. Very good. Proceeded to Rehoboth shelter where several of the kids that our MVCF people sponsor are housed and cared for. They served us breads, popcorn, cokes and coffee. The kids sang for us. I hugged every one of them or tried to. I walked away with tears in my eyes. It was my first realization of why we're doing what we do. I have made the comment many times that I will never be wealthy. I realized today that I am. The Capital, Addis, has poor roads, no stop signs and I saw two traffic lights. Neither one worked. We went back to the compound for more naps, showers and for a time of sharing our thoughts. (Admasu, Senyo and me) Finally it was bed time. It's 1pm at home. Thank you Lord for this day that will take some time to process.

## **Tuesday, July 26, 2011**

We left Addis about 7am. We saw many interesting sights and geography. We went through the bush area. People everywhere plowing with oxen and plows made roughly from eucalyptus trees. Stopped for breakfast. I ate the national staple, injera, with meat and spices. Love their coffee. Stopped to stretch legs up in the mountains and immediately were joined by a young man named Abraham. He seemed to come out of nowhere. Muslim probably. I coaxed him into a picture with us. Got to Jima where we will be staying the night. Terfasa and Admasu each got a room for \$8 but Senyo and I had to pay \$16 since

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we're not Ethiopian. As we talked with Terfasa over dinner, we realized that they are moving ahead with the coffee farm but not nearly fast enough nor organized enough per Senyo and I'm beginning to understand his frustration. This is his native culture and he wants to see change. He says that when something is broke they just leave it broke. Nobody bothers to fix it. The hotel we stayed in was new 10 years ago. Today it looks like something from the fifties that has had very little maintenance. I see what he is saying. The orphanage had plumbing issues that they were working around rather than getting them fixed. Senyo pushed them to get someone to give an estimate or call the landlord and lay it at his feet. He is asking Admasu to hold them accountable to get it done. More of the education process.

Evening of rest ahead. There is a little TV that may or may not work and if it does, it may or may not be in English. I'll give it a try. (It didn't work) Talked to Susan a few minutes ago. \$23.29 for the call of 10 minutes. Worth every penny of it. God is good all the time. He is blessing on this trip, especially in our relationships with each other. i.e. Senyo, Admasu and myself.

More to come next month. Blessings on you and thanks again for sending us to Ethiopia.

*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,  
September 14, 2011  
10:00 a.m.

### Young Adult Home Fellowship 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

7362 Stanford Ave, La Mesa, CA 91941 619.337.0616



## GRACE: OUR ENCOURAGEMENT

*“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age...” Titus 2:10-12*

Did you catch that? Read it again.

How about now? If you didn't I will give you a little hint: *grace*.

Now read the first part again, and think on it.

Now, finish the rest.

Wow.

Grace does two amazing things. Firstly, it offers us salvation through faith in Jesus. God has made it perfectly clear that His offer for salvation (forgiveness of sins, new life in Christ, adoption into the family of God etc.) is free. How free you might ask? Completely. It is so free that those who have recognized their sinful state and trusted in Jesus' finished work for salvation are totally and completely right with God. They are even as righteous as Jesus Himself.

*“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21*

Did you catch that? The righteousness of God. That's right. Those in Christ are as innocent and “right” as God. As a completely free offer of Grace, God gives us all a chance to enter into relationship with Him. Undeserved? Yes. But that's grace.

Secondly, Grace instructs us with Holy Living. This is truly mind-blowing. To think that it is not a set of religious duties, church attendance, or any other “spiritual check lists” that we may create that leads us to Holy living, but that it is merely the underserved favor of God, is truly revolutionary.

So many Christians today think that you cannot simply teach grace because people will just end up abusing it. They will “go on sinning” as Paul clearly speaks against in Romans. But is this Biblical?

We need to understand first and foremost that grace is God's deal with mankind through Christ. It is His promise of the New Covenant (agreement, testament) with His creation. By grace He promises to save us, and forget all of our sins.

*“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” Hebrews 8:12*

God, in His love, has made a pact with mankind. Those who enter the New Covenant through Christ are totally forgiven. Is this offer too free? Will people simply abuse it? Suffice it to say, God took a chance. Grace by definition is not only undeserved but can be rejected and abused. Because God's relationship with His children is no longer a conditional one based on our Holy performance (like the Old Testament) but based on Christ's Holy performance, it can be used as license to sin. But is this what a true understanding of grace is supposed to do for us? No.

Let's say that you were a poor and VERY indebted graduate from college, and that you desperately needed a car to drive to and from your new job. To make matters worse your parents did not offer any help, and you had absolutely no money of your own. That is until one day you are at home making your daily dose of rice and water, and the door bell sounds. You put everything down, and walk to the door. When you open the door, there is no one there. But there is an envelop at the base of your feet. As you pick it up, you can tell that it is not merely a letter, but that it contains *something*.

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You close the door and open it. Inside is the letter. But as you unfold it a key drops to the ground. Confused, you read:

Mr. John Doe,

It has come to our attention that you owe a loan amounting to \$75,000 to our institution. For an early graduation present, we have decided to pay your expenses for you. Your balance is now \$0.00.

In addition, it has come to our attention that you need a car. So, it has been our great pleasure to give you this cobalt blue BMW 6 Series. We trust that you will find it sufficient for your needs. Included is a gas card for your personal and convenient use. This you will find in the glove compartment beneath the free wax.

Sincerely,  
Financial Aid

WOW! Can you imagine?!?!?!? No debt. Free car (super cool car at that) and a free gas card? BENEATH THE FREE WAX?????!?!?

Now, granted a few people (crazy people) may treat that new car recklessly. But the vast majority would take the best care of it imaginable. This is how it is with the grace of God. It is freely given. Yes. But, the gift is so full of love, so needed, that only a fool would turn around and abuse it.

Grace, God's undeserved favor, does not teach us to go out and sin. It teaches "us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age..." Those who truly understand grace will find it extremely hard to abuse. Those who live lives completely surrendered to the finished work of Christ (and I mean totally) will find the love and encouragement that they have always needed to live rightly. But those who do not understand grace, will either abuse it OR fall into the temptation to create their own lists of "spiritual dos and don'ts" to keep their lives in check.

God knew what He was doing through His Son. Let's believe Him.

Pastor Andy Nelson

Join us for a Delicious Spaghetti Dinner



5:30–7:30 pm Friday, September 30th—MVCF Fellowship Hall

We are raising funds for Church Camp 2012

There will be a signup sheet for the dinner. Also, we need the wonderful cooks that we have in our fellowship to donate their time and their favorite spaghetti sauce and pasta.

**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**

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

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

**Church Camp 2012**

**May 11-13, 2012**

**See Scott Fiori to start a payment plan**

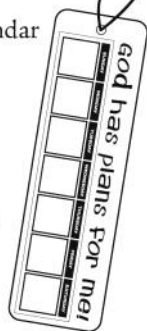
**SEPTEMBER**

## A daily reminder

Make this bookmark to remind you that God is with you every day.

### What you need:

- An old calendar
- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Glue stick
- Pencil or marker
- Stickers
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn



### What you do:

1. Cut out the first line of squares from an old calendar, including the days of the week along the top.
2. Cut the cardstock into a rectangle a little larger than the calendar section.
3. Glue the calendar section onto the cardstock.
4. Write "God has plans for me" (Jeremiah 29:11) on the bookmark.
5. Add stickers or other decorations on the back.
6. Punch a hole on one end of the bookmark.
7. Loop some ribbon or yarn through the hole.



# GOD'S PLAN

*When we ask God for guidance, he will show us his perfect plan for our lives.*

**Directions:** Use the shape code to the right to write out Jeremiah 29:11, NIV.

plans

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Answers: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

### Practicing the ABCs

As school resumes, Christians of all ages can practice their faith ABCs. Connie Willems, editor of Discipleship Journal Online, suggests praying through the alphabet to describe God.

What would you list? Ideas include Almighty, Blessed, Christ, Divine, Elohim, Faithful, Gracious, Holy and so on. If Q and X stump you, relax the rules a bit: Quitting? Never! and Xcellent! surely describe our Lord.

Try a similar approach to think of people and things to thank God for: Apples, Books, Cats, Daddy, Ears ... and so on.

# JUST FOR FUN

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

05—Mark Flanagan  
07—Red Thibodeaux  
09—Joan Stephen  
12—Selorm Adjibolosoo  
12—Paul Michael Dekker  
19—Christiana Naputi  
20—Jodi Drass  
28—Christopher French  
29—Les Avritt

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

02—Senyo & Sabina Adjibolosoo  
18—Admasu & Etalemahu Agiro



At the outset of his reign as Israel's third king, Solomon saw the Lord in a dream. God invited Solomon to request anything he wanted. What did Solomon ask for?

- A. The ability to discern between good and evil
- B. Long life
- C. Riches
- D. Conquest over his enemies

Answer: A (See 1 Kings 3:4-14.)



“Forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

MATTHEW 18:35, NRSV



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

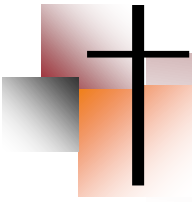
**\$140 for the weekend**  
all meals included.

**Stay Tuned for more information!!**



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You could have been reading an article you  
wrote, right here...right now...



# SEPTEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 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	<b>5</b>  Office Closed	<b>6</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	<b>7</b> 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—Gethsemane 7 p.m. Youth Group	<b>8</b> 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	<b>9</b> 6:30 p.m. Bunco 7 p.m. Armstead HF	<b>10</b> 8 a.m. God's Extended Hand 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry
<b>11</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 	<b>12</b> 2 p.m. June Angus HF	<b>13</b> 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. Council Mtg.	<b>14</b> 10 a.m. Pastor's Coffee Club 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—Gethsemane 7 p.m. Youth Group	<b>15</b> 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	<b>16</b> 7 p.m. Armstead HF	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Jacob's Young Adult HF	<b>19</b> 2 p.m. June Angus HF	<b>20</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	<b>21</b> 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—Gethsemane 7 p.m. Youth Group	<b>22</b> 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	<b>23</b> 7 p.m. Armstead HF 	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	<b>26</b> 2 p.m. June Angus HF	<b>27</b> 4 p.m. MJ Cooper HF 7 p.m. Prayer Meeting	<b>28</b> 10-2 p.m. SM Food Pantry Noon—Friendship Lunch—Gethsemane 7 p.m. Youth Group	<b>29</b> 7 p.m. Thibodeaux HF	<b>30</b> 5:30-7:30 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner Camp Fund Raiser	

