

MVCC Voices

The Monthly Newsletter Of
Moraine Valley Community Church

For the Month of April 2016

From The Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Derek
MASON



In the Old Testament, anointing with oil was used to ratify and solemnize commitment in diplomatic relations, business contracts, friendships and such (Gen 28:18; Hos 12:1). The LORD uses anointing oil to signify consecration (setting one apart as sacred) for priestly (Exod 30:30; Lev 8:12) and royal service (1 Sam 2:10; 16:1, 12-13). The anointing represents two things: (1) it sets the person or thing apart as holy / consecrated and (2) it confers authority on the person who is anointed. In the Scriptures, the LORD mediated through established authorities (like Moses, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha and the apostles) to identify and validate a person which God had chosen for service to Him for His people. Nowadays, this process can be very elaborate and tedious.

Denominations often provide experienced theologians and pastors which can provide this service of: identifying, examining and consecrating new pastors (“*ordaining*”). This process and service protects churches from individuals not yet sufficiently prepared or maybe not even truly “called” by God. A pastoral position is usually given a substantial amount of trust in a community. Therefore, this position must be very carefully screened. The potential for

deception and abuse is too great – as the Scriptures repeatedly show us.

Also, in Acts 13:2, it says that while the church in Antioch was worshiping the LORD and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart (consecrate) for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have ‘called them.’” Part of the *ordination* process is to identify the “work which God has called the individual(s) into.”

When I was offered the pastoral position at Moraine Valley Community Church (almost two years ago), the Elders asked if I would be willing to go through the American Baptist Church’s *ordination* process. I agreed and the process began. On March 11th (2016) the American Baptist Church’s Ordination Committee officially validated my call by the LORD as a pastor. Therefore, the American Baptist Church recognizes me as an “*Ordained Pastor*” - *one who has been separated by God and given the authority to shepherd His people.* The last part of this process is to hold a Ceremony of Anointing which will most-likely be done as a large portion of one of our Sunday services. As soon as this date is finalized, we will make it known to all of you.

As this *Ordination Process* comes to an end, I have recently paused to evaluate the journey so far. It is truly amazing to witness how the LORD has brought and is still bringing each of us together (in all our historical diversity). We are no doubt a unique group! Some of us have had very blessed lives (with very little trauma) but many have had a very different road. Theirs has been filled with deep pain and extreme challenges. Some of us have been labeled as

unwanted or have been deeply scarred with abandonment and/or wide varieties of abuse. Some of us have tasted monetary success (comforts) only to lose it all and hit rock bottom. And some of us struggle with very serious health issues. Yes historically, we have much diversity, however, we are all identical in that our Creator deeply loves every one of us and has adopted us as His children (through the Christ). We are brothers and sisters in Jesus and part of the Divine Royal family! Our LORD is the One who prevails over darkness, death and destruction! Therefore, our stories are not over yet. We will prevail through our Savior! Our diversity is what makes us a whole church family and all are very precious. Our stories interceding with God's salvation, gives us the ability to serve more completely as mighty warriors for the Kingdom of God. Yes, we all have new life and victory in Jesus Christ! The LORD has "***called us all***" together as a church family to reflect His Light. I am blessed and proud to be your pastor and I eagerly look forward to the road before us. Amen.

Many Blessings,
Pastor Derek Mason

Church Signs

Those little pearls of wisdom
found in front of America's
Churches

Easter is more than something to dye for.

God doesn't have a Plan 'B'.

God grades on the cross, not on the curve.

From The Elders' Table

SPRING and around the Elders' table, it is seen as a time of new beginnings. We are energized with all that is happening at Moraine Valley Community Church. The last month has been very busy at our church as we prepared for a very special, very moving, very inspirational Soup Supper and Tenebrae Service. Our Lord's Resurrection inspires us all to new life. Our Elders, as well as many of our other church leaders and Pastor Derek, met for a three-hour Leadership Meeting in March, where they reported on and discussed the many ministries forming in our church. Ideas were shared and efforts supported and all went away with a new resolve to lead and bring new life to each of the ministries SPRINGING up at our church. In April, our elders as well as several of our church members, will be attending the 20th Anniversary Converge Dinner. We hope this to be a SPRING board to more idea sharing with other churches looking to bring new life and energy to their churches. We are looking forward to a SPRING Potluck Dinner celebrating the success of our Life Groups this winter. This will be a time to renew those friendships made during our time spent together. Our new church directory along with membership cards is almost finished. We are making every effort to bring our church community together through better communication and fellowship with each other. We strive to make our church family stronger by bringing us together, breathing new life into our relationships with each other and our Savior Jesus Christ. May this SPRING bring the feeling of new life to each of you.

Birthdays Etc.

Pat Curtis	Apr. 5
LeRoy Crettol	Apr. 8
Herb Mohn	Apr. 19



ONCE YOU GET YOUR PERMIT, LEARN TO RIDE, AND PROVE YOURSELF RESPONSIBLE WE CAN DISCUSS MOVING UP TO A CAMEL ... HAPPY SIXTEENTH, BUD

Living Water Youth Group

Megan Bustamante

This past month has been an exciting month for *Living Water Youth Group* for many reasons. I am thrilled to share with you just some of the ways I have seen the Lord at work from week to week. Not only has God been working in my life but he has shown me that the youth group is growing and good things are yet to come.

The first way I have seen God at work in the youth group, was with our pancake breakfast. I knew that this would be a test of how well the youth group worked together

and how much the students cared about this new community they are a part of, but I did not know how things would turn out. I was pleasantly surprised to see the students worked as a team to create posters, set up tables and chairs, problem solve, invite people to come and serve food that morning.

Not only did the students step up and show me what the youth group meant to them but the church community did as well. Due to the fact that people volunteered to bring in food donations and came to the breakfast, we were able to raise over \$230! That money will be put towards future events, mission trips and service opportunities. The youth group would like to say thank you to all of you for your prayers, donations and support.

Another way that God has been growing the youth group is in the spiritual interest of the students. We have spent the last month learning about prayer and I have been so encouraged by the response of the students. When we started our discussions on prayer most students had very little to say about it, but by the end of the month, conversations came more naturally. Students were reminding me that we needed to pray, they were opening up and sharing prayer requests and some were even willing to pray out loud with our group. I see these things as huge steps of spiritual growth.

Many people think only of numbers when they think of growth, but the Lord has been encouraging me to see growth in other ways as well. The things that he has been doing in the youth group and in the hearts of the students and myself are building a foundation on which big things can happen. I know that once this foundation is set by God amazing things will follow.

Food For Thought

Mom's Last Laugh

Consumed by my loss, I didn't notice the hardness of the pew where I sat. I was at the funeral of my dearest friend, my mother. She finally had lost her long battle with cancer. The hurt was so intense that I found it hard to breathe at times. Always supportive, mother clapped loudest at my school plays, held a box of tissues while listening to my first heartbreak, comforted me at my father's death, encouraged me in college, and prayed for me my entire life. When mother's illness was diagnosed, my sister had a new baby and my brother had recently married his childhood sweetheart, so it fell on me, the 27-year-old middle child without entanglements, to take care of her. I counted it an honor.

"What now, Lord?" I asked sitting in church. My life stretched out before me as an empty abyss. My brother sat stoically with his face toward the cross while clutching his wife's hand. My sister sat slumped against her husband's shoulder, his arms around her as she cradled their child. All so deeply grieving, no one noticed I sat alone. My place had been with our mother, preparing her meals, helping her walk, taking her to the doctor, seeing to her medication, reading the Bible together. Now she was with the Lord. My work was finished and I was alone.

I heard a door open and slam shut at the back of the church. Quick footsteps hurried along the carpeted floor. An exasperated young man looked around briefly and then sat next to me. He folded his hands and placed them on his lap. His eyes were brimming with tears. He began to sniffle. "I'm late," he explained, though no explanation was necessary. After several eulogies, he leaned over and commented,

"Why do they keep calling Mary by the name of 'Margaret'?"

"Oh" "Because that was her name, Margaret, never Mary. No one called her

'Mary,' I whispered. I wondered why this person couldn't have sat on the other side of the church. He interrupted my grieving with his tears and fidgeting. Who was this stranger anyway?

"No, that isn't correct," he insisted, as several people glanced over at us whispering, "Her name is Mary, Mary Peters."

"That isn't who this is, I replied."

"Isn't this the Lutheran church?"

"No, the Lutheran church is across the street."

"Oh."

"I believe you're at the wrong funeral, Sir."

The solemnness of the occasion mixed with the realization of the man's mistake bubbled up inside me and came out as laughter. I cupped my hands over my face, hoping it would be interpreted as sobs.

The creaking pew gave me away. Sharp looks from other mourners only made the situation seem more hilarious. I peeked at the bewildered, misguided man seated beside me. He was laughing too as he glanced around, deciding it was too late for an uneventful exit.

I imagined mother laughing. At the final "Amen," we darted out a door and into the parking lot. "I do believe we'll be the talk of the town," he smiled. He said his name was Rick and since he had missed his aunt's funeral, asked me out for a cup of coffee. That afternoon began a lifelong journey for me with this man who attended the wrong funeral, but was in the right place.

A year after our meeting, we were married at a country church where he was the assistant pastor. This time we both arrived at the same church, right on time. In my time of sorrow, God gave me laughter. In place of loneliness, God gave me love. This past June, we celebrated our twenty-second wedding anniversary. Whenever anyone asks us how we met, Rick tells them, "Her mother and my Aunt Mary introduced us, and it's truly a match made in heaven."

Remember in Prayer...

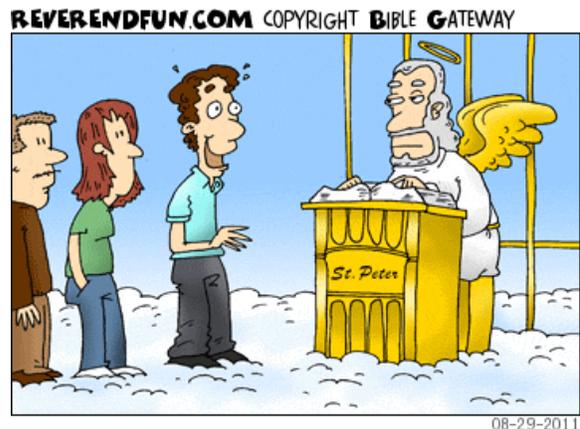
- Elsie's Food Pantry: provisions/wisdom/protection
- MVCC: wisdom/guidance/protection
 - Hearts to serve – to build our church (formation of ministries)
 - Wisdom and guidance in our new location
 - Discipleship/transformation/leadership
 - Youth and Children's Ministry growth and development
- Pete Delgado – dementia (Sarah – strength)
- Vi Wagner – hip/arm/eyes/strength
- Mark DeBauche: cancer healing / strength /pain / arms and legs recovery
- Roy Beehn – provisions, healing from his open heart surgery
- Tony Juarez – new job closer to his home
- Russ McGurty – job & insurance situation, surgery and pain relief
- Dan Tabert – foot recovery, peace, guidance, provisions
- Linda Hudecek – lungs & heart healing, recovery
- Harriet – strength in her legs, walking
- Becky Lewellen – employment
 - Her mother grieving the loss of her son
- Herb Mohn - prostate cancer treatment success
- Bill Clemente – family healing and provisions
- Kathy Delgado's sons:
 - Tommy - humility, faith, protection, provisions

- Benny - protection and provisions
- (friend) Cynthia & unborn child – survival, health, life

- Doreen DeBauche – continued healing and recovery

Give Thanks For.....

- Growth in: youth, children, prayer and men's ministries
- Linda's recovery
- Doreen's movement in recovery
- Increased participation with Bible Study
- Spiritual maturity in our church



THAT STUFF? THAT WAS JUST A GAG ... HAH, GET IT?

Great Truths

The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.

Mark Twain

There is no distinctly Native American criminal class, save Congress.

Mark Twain

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