

MVCC Voices

The Monthly Newsletter Of
Moraine Valley Community Church

For the Month of March 2015

From The Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Derek
MASON



Waiting can be very hard. We live in a world of instant gratification with: smart phones, microwaves, drive thru food places, high speed internet, and skype – to name only a few contributors. We are not used to **waiting**. We want things now! That is what our society trains us for and additionally informs us that we deserve it! But as Christians, we are often told to pray and wait on the LORD. Psalm 46 is a beautiful writing which poetically paints a picture of the world around this writer crumbling into devastation yet he knows that the LORD is with him. He has no reason to fear. “*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble*” is the first verse. He is a mighty force over all things and a fortress for those who take refuge in Him. However, it can feel at times as though heaven does not yet have high-speed internet capabilities. Sometimes the **wait** can be long and even painful. But if we really look at God’s Word, He does not only call us to pray and wait on Him. He calls us to walk with Him.

How do we feel when someone only comes to us when they want something from us? Is that really an intimate relationship? No. Jesus calls out many times, “Follow Me!” (Matt 4:19; 8:22; 9:9, 27; 10:38;

16:24; 19:21 – *just to name a few*).

This means a daily relationship (moment by moment). The reason the pain is present in the **waiting** is because we have our focus on the wrong subject. Our world trains us to focus on ourselves. But God calls us to make Him the center of our lives. The transition is so extreme that God gives us a visual example in history for us to see in the Exodus. God frees

the enslaved nation of Israel from the most powerful force in the known world at that time (Egypt) and leads them out into the desert. Here He detaches them from the luxuries of the world (in Egypt) and teaches Israel to rely on the LORD for their daily provisions and protection. This was a difficult and continual struggle but the LORD never failed Israel. Eventually they learned to trust in the LORD and enter the Promised Land (abundant provisions). Often our resistance against God (to have things our own way) only delays His provisions. Israel could have entered the Promised Land after about one year in the desert but their persistent rebellion eventually extended the time to forty years!

God does not discipline His people to be cruel but rather so that they might have true life – eternally. Right after the LORD split the Sea and crushed the Egyptian army, He made a promise to Israel. He said that if they followed Him, then He would not strike out against Israel like He did to Egypt but rather that He would be their healer (Exod. 15:25-26). When God frees us from our slavery to sin, He brings us out into the desert so to detach us from the things that separate us from Him and then fills us with the things that unify us to Him. The

“*waiting*” is often this detachment process. Rather than us focus on the pain and inconvenience of this period, I suggest that we focus on deepening our relationship with God (learn to walk with Him / follow Him more intimately). We must embrace His: Scriptures, Spirit and church community. We must seek and acknowledge His provisions and utilize regularly the great honor and power of prayer – not just for our needs but in regular conversation with Him as well. We have been given the privilege to know our Creator intimately. Nothing is more important for life. Everything else is a deception. The desert is part of the journey to the Promised Land (abundant provisions). The amount of time required in the desert is largely our choice. Resistance makes it long and painful. Submission and humility dramatically shortens the journey. May we be a people who learn to walk with God in every moment. Then the *waiting* becomes an amazing life-giving adventure.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Derek Mason

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(See Exodus 20:17)

09-05-2011

YOU HAD BETTER NOT BE COVETING OVER THERE!



In Memoriam

Please join together in prayer as we mourn the passing of a member of our Moraine Valley Community Church family



Kenneth W. Rehorst, age 92. Formerly of Palos Heights and Evergreen Park II. At rest January 11, 2015. Beloved husband of Sybil nee Weaver. Loving father of Orin (Mary Ellen) and Reed (Susan) Rehorst. Proud grandfather of Kenny and Allen (Nancy) Rehorst. Dear brother of the late Jack (The late Leantine) Rehorst. Fond uncle to many. Kenneth was raised a farm boy on the family farm near Hebron Illinois. He was once a member of Moraine Valley Community Church. If anyone would like to offer condolences, Orin would love to hear from them at (832) 472-3279.

Remember also his friends and family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Birthdays Etc.

Carmen Mohn	Mar. 4
Chris Rybka	Mar. 6
Linda Hudecek	Mar. 8
Lorraine Edwards	Mar. 9
Beth Heinrich	Mar. 9
Luke Healy	Mar. 21
Kellie Roth	Mar. 27

From The Elders' Table

Like most things at Moraine Valley Community Church, our Elders' Meetings begin and end with prayer. We pray for God's wisdom and direction as we attend to the affairs of our church. Reports are given - Treasurer's Report, Investment Report and finally Elsie's Pantry. The report from Elsie's Pantry always gladdens our souls as we see the successful effect this ministry has had on our community.

Then we are about our church's business, God's business. Naturally, we take this very seriously. What is God's plan for us? What is our next step? Each month there are new things on our agenda. And old things we are still working on.

This month we are happy to report the start of two new ministries - a men's ministry and an expanded women's ministry in addition to Rachel's Circle, two ministries much needed in our church. We continue to be amazed by how God is leading people to our church that can help us continue to rebuild.

We have all recently "reupped" our membership in our church. We ask all of you to pray for us and share with us your thoughts and hopes for our church. We are fortunate to have financial resources available for us to continue to bring people to Christ, but we need your help in helping us be aware of ways we can continue to

build Moraine Valley Community Church and also ways to use those resources to help in our community,

We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the lower level. During the first half hour of our meeting, all church members are welcome to attend and to present any ideas or concerns you may have. We are also available before and after church if there is something you would like to discuss.

We usually end our meeting with a prayer that goes something like this - "Thank you, God, for allowing us to be about Your Son's work. Please continue to keep our minds and hearts open to all the ways You would lead our church. In Jesus Christ's name, we pray. Amen"

Elsie's Pantry News

Elsie's Pantry

As we approach our 15th year there are a lot of memorable moments to reflect upon, and we will save that for the April newsletter. By the time May is upon us we will have served over 20,000 Households with over 50,000 individuals. We are humbled by the fact that God has truly been the biggest part of our success. Our donations always increase right when we need them, and that is no coincidence. We continue to all work and serve with no monetary gain. Our volunteers come from every age group and all walks of life and we all are in unison as to why we are here: to serve. Thank you Father, Moraine Valley Community Church, Savior Divine Lutheran Church and all the volunteers past and present. May we continue to do the Lord's work with a humble Spirit and a grateful heart!

Sincerely,

The Elsie's Pantry Staff

Food For Thought

Below is one of the most iconic images to come from the war in Viet Nam but the story of what happened after that photo was taken and the life that followed is truly amazing, read on.

Dennis



On June 8, 1972, I ran out from Cao Dai temple in my village, Trang Bang, South Vietnam; I saw an airplane getting lower and then four bombs falling down. I saw fire everywhere around me. Then I saw the fire over my body, especially on my left arm. My clothes had been burned off by fire. I was 9 years old but I still remember my thoughts at that moment: I would be ugly and people would treat me in a different way. My picture was taken in that moment on Road No. 1 from Saigon to Phnom Penh. After a soldier gave me some drink and poured water over my body, I lost consciousness.

Several days after, I realized that I was in the hospital, where I spent 14 months and had 17 operations. It was a very difficult time for me when I went home from the hospital. Our house was destroyed; we lost everything and we just survived day by day.

Although I suffered from pain, itching and headaches all the time, the long hospital stay

made me dream to become a doctor. But my studies were cut short by the local government. They wanted me as a symbol of the state. I could not go to school anymore. The anger inside me was like a hatred as high as a mountain. I hated my life. I hated all people who were normal because I was not normal. I really wanted to die many times.

I spent my daytime in the library to read a lot of religious books to find a purpose for my life. One of the books that I read was the Holy Bible.

In Christmas 1982, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior. It was an amazing turning point in my life. God helped me to learn to forgive — the most difficult of all lessons. It didn't happen in a day and it wasn't easy. But I finally got it.

Forgiveness made me free from hatred. I still have many scars on my body and severe pain most days but my heart is cleansed. Napalm is very powerful but faith, forgiveness and love are much more powerful. We would not have war at all if everyone could learn how to live with true love, hope and forgiveness.

If that little girl in the picture can do it, ask yourself: Can you?

“Napalm Girl” — Today

Kim Phuc is now 51 years old. As a teenager, Phuc was accepted into medical school but was forced to quit by the new communist regime. In 1982, however, Vietnam's prime minister made plans for her to study in Cuba. Now a doctor and mother of two, she feels she has finally escaped the photo. "I have a husband and a new life and want to be normal like everyone else," she said in an interview with Huffington Post.

(continued on next page)



For a more detailed account of Kim's story go to
["http://www.todayschristianwoman.com/articles/2014/january-week-3/kim-phuc-picture-of-peace.html?start=1"](http://www.todayschristianwoman.com/articles/2014/january-week-3/kim-phuc-picture-of-peace.html?start=1)



BUSINESS IS TERRIBLE ... I SHOULD HAVE
 DONE SOME MARKET RESEARCH BEFORE SETTING
 UP SHOP HERE

Remember in Prayer...

- Elsie's Food Pantry:
provisions/wisdom/protection
- MVCC: wisdom/guidance/protection
 - Hearts to serve – to build our church (formation of ministries)
 - Discipleship/transformation/leadership development
- Tony Zappa – knees/back
- Patsy Rybka – foot recovery/health
- Chris Rybka – hernia
- Tom Heinrich – healing/health/job
- Emmitt Hayes' daughter (Jerri) – cancer healing/stomach/digestive issues
- Pete Delgado – dementia (Sarah – strength)
- Vi Wagner – hip/eyes/strength
- Arlena Reyes – Transformation/strength/protection
- Beth Heinrich – strength/wisdom/guidance
- Mark DeBauche: cancer healing / strength /endurance
- Becky Lewellen: strength/peace/healing/wisdom
- Edith Martinez – Sister for healing, mom for provisions, father for healing and wisdom and guidance regarding her nephew
- Jackie Gehle – healing, peace, provisions
- Brian Mason (pastor's brother) liver issues
- Kathy Delgado – new home guidance and blessings
-

Give Thanks For.....

- Dennis and Pat Pepe are giving thanks for the birth of their first Great-Grandchild, Isabella Leon born on Sunday Febraury 22, 2015

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Thanks to Kerry Hodgkinson 02-01-2013

IF GOD CREATED ALL THIS DOES HE HAVE TO PAY THE ELECTRIC BILL TOO?

Church Bulletin BOO-BOOS

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

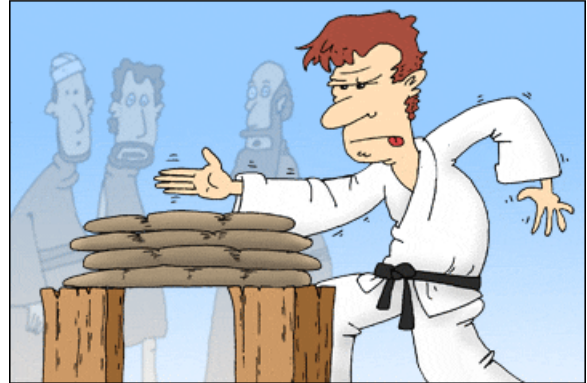
Great Truths

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress.
-- **John Adams**

If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. -- **Mark Twain**

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.
-- **Douglas Case**,
Classmate of Bill Clinton at Georgetown University.

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07-11-2011

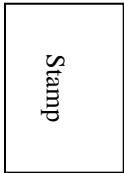
WHEN IT CAME TO BREAKING BREAD, HE WAS THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS

Editor's Corner

I am sure that like me, many of you are not well versed on the similarities and differences between some of the world's major religions. On the last page of this month's Voices is a chart which illustrates those differences and similarities between Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

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