

# MVCC Voices

The Monthly Newsletter Of  
Moraine Valley Community Church

For the Month of June 2015

## From The Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Derek  
MASON



Recently, I have seen a number of YouTube videos posted of hearing-impaired individuals who use an innovative hearing device which allows them to hear for the first time – ever! Understandably these people are completely overwhelmed with joyous emotions and celebration as they experience something totally new.

Often Jesus uses the phrase, “Whoever has ears, let them hear” (Matt 11:5, 13:9; Mark 4:9, 23; Rev 3:22). This seems like an odd phrase unless we understand what is going on here. In Scripture, “Ears that are unable to hear” is a phrase that is used to describe people who refuse to listen to the LORD or obey Him. Stubborn defiance and continual disobedience also leads to blindness to God. Spiritual blindness and deafness are inevitable to all who continually ignore God’s Word. Another phrase in Scripture for this issue is a “hardened heart.” In the Exodus, Pharaoh was guilty of this and his destruction was vast and on display for the world to see. In the Exile, Nebuchadnezzar was also guilty of a hardened heart and the LORD again made the most powerful man in the world an example – this time by changing his mind to that of an animal (for a period of time). No

one is immune to this issue. When we ignore our Creator, we start to lose the honor of being able to hear Him anymore. What an unfortunate tragedy – our very purpose for being created is revoked (to know and glorify God). We become ultimately worthless. In Isaiah 6, we see that a good majority of Israel (God’s people) are guilty of this crime and are declared to be deaf, blind and having hearts of stone.

But Jesus is the Chosen One (the Messiah) who will give sight to the blind and make the deaf hear. There is definitely a physical healing that He brings but there is also (even more importantly) a spiritual healing – that we might see and hear our God again. In Matthew 5:2-11, Jesus reveals those who will receive this spiritual healing. This is where God’s presence is manifested – where He meets us.

The question is: what does it take to get us to these places listed in Matthew 5? For Nebuchadnezzar it meant his mind being changed to that of an animal for a while. Afterwards, he gave praise to the LORD of Israel and listened to His instructions – unlike before. What kind of things do we do to get someone’s attention? The LORD sent His Son (Jesus) because His message and mission was extremely important – to restore a remnant of humanity. An eternal being knows what eternity is like. We should listen to Him when He instructs us. The person who knows that they are deaf will unmistakably recognize when they are given ears that hear. And the joyful emotions will be overwhelming – as they experience something totally new. If our walking away from God removes our

ability to recognize His presence then also our turning back to Him eventually, allows for those senses to return. Thanks to the Son of God.

My question is: do we hear the LORD and know how to see Him or are our senses dulled? Is Jesus trying to get our attention but we have not been listening? If so, I promise that no sin or time period of straying from Him is beyond the grace and love of God. Those who repent (turn back to the LORD), He will absolutely restore. May we be a people who listen and follow the LORD – who have ears that hear and eyes that see. May we be a light for others into the divine restoration through Jesus the Christ! Amen.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Derek Mason

## Church Signs

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

Two things you can count on: Death and Taxes. Are you ready for both?

Fifty Shades of Grace

7 days without prayer makes 1 weak

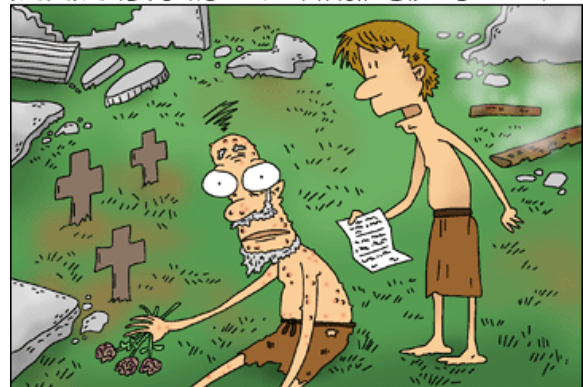
## Birthdays Etc.

Beverly Blattner	June 4
Kimberly Healy	June 10

## 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
- Youth and Children's Ministry growth and development
- Tony Zappa – knees/back
- Patsy Rybka – foot recovery/health
- Tom Heinrich – healing/health/job
- Emmitt Hayes – heart/health
- daughter (Jerri) – cancer healing/colon
- Pete Delgado – dementia (Sarah – strength)
- Vi Wagner – hip/eyes/strength
- 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
- Lis Acosta – pain and health
- Dorothy Martin's brother-in-law (Jeff) – cancer
- Joan DeBauche - Health

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(See Job 1) 09-27-2013

HEY JOB IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE JURY DUTY TOMORROW

# Food For Thought

## Arms and Legs for Others

Bob Butler lost his legs in a 1965 land mine explosion in Vietnam. He returned home a war hero. Twenty years later, he proved once again that heroism comes from the heart.

Butler was working in his garage in a small town in Arizona, USA on a hot summer day; when he heard a woman's screams coming from a nearby house. He began rolling his wheelchair toward the house but the dense shrubbery wouldn't allow him access to the back door. So he got out of his chair and started to crawl through the dirt and bushes.

"I had to get there", he says. "It didn't matter how much it hurt". When Butler arrived at the pool there was a three-year-old girl named Stephanie Hanes lying at the bottom. She had been born without arms and had fallen in the water and couldn't swim. Her mother stood over her baby screaming frantically. Butler dove to the bottom of the pool and brought little Stephanie up to the deck. Her face was blue; she had no pulse and was not breathing.

Butler immediately went to work performing CPR to revive her while Stephanie's mother telephoned the fire department. She was told the paramedics were already out on a call. Helplessly, she sobbed and hugged Butler's shoulder.

As Butler continued with his CPR, he calmly reassured her. Don't worry, he said. "I was her arms to get out of the pool. It'll be okay. I am now her lungs. Together we can make it".

Seconds later the little girl coughed, regained consciousness, and began to cry. As they hugged and rejoiced together the mother asked Butler how he knew it would be okay. The truth is, "I didn't know", he

told her. "But when my legs were blown off in the war, I was all alone in a field. No one was there to help except a little Vietnamese girl. As she struggled to drag me into her village, she whispered in broken English, "It okay. You can live. I be your legs. Together we make it." Her kind words brought hope to my soul and I wanted to do the same for Stephanie.

There are simply those times when we cannot stand alone. There are those times when we need someone to be our legs, our arms, our friend.

*Author Unknown*



## Advice From an Old Farmer

Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

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