

MVCC Voices

The Monthly Newsletter Of
Moraine Valley Community Church

For the Month of August 2015

From The Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Derek
MASON



Ever notice how the Bible does not end after the four Gospels? It's because the story is not over! The LORD invites people into the story – to be a part of it (to join in the advancement of the Kingdom of God on earth). Those who truly believe in the Son of God (Jesus) are justified through His work at the cross and resurrection. Then they receive the Holy Spirit – to be transformed and empowered for the path ahead.

God uses the image of “*maturing*” to visualize for us what it means to walk with the LORD and embrace His Spirit. When we are children, we have many experiences of joy and love with our parents but there are also times of rebellion. The first word from a child is often “no!” The child fights for its freedom to do whatever it wants and its focus is almost completely self-centered. But a good parent knows more than the child and wants to guide them into what is good. They want to protect them from harm/evil/destruction but this is not always possible. Adolescence can be a very painful experience for both sides (parent and child) because the child is realizing that they can physically do things independently and they

want their own identity.

Unfortunately, pain is sometimes unavoidable in the learning process. The parent “walks” with their child through life (step by step) – to help them when they fall and eventually guide them into *maturity* (adulthood). Things come full circle when the young adult becomes a parent. Their childlike tendencies of rebellion fall increasingly more to the side and they

seek wisdom from those whom have experience (parents). Spiritually, we go through the same type of progression. There is often love and joy in the new believer's life but there are often times of rebellion as well (our old self trying to resurface - adolescence). The Word of God and His Spirit slowly pulls this child into areas unseen and very different from the ways they lived previously. But God walks with the child (step by step) guiding him as he learns how to walk all over again. When the child falls, God picks him up and encourages him to continue until he reaches *maturity*. This is not spiritual perfection but rather the deep awareness of the futility of our rebellion and that wisdom is found in humility, submission and faith in our heavenly Father. He guides us into what is truly good.

There are endless Scripture passages calling Christians to *mature* in Christ (1 Cor 13:11, 14:20; Heb 5:12-13, 6:1-3; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Phil 3:12; Prov 9:9; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 John 4:12; Matt 5:48) – just to name a few. Ephesians 4:11-16, *says that Christ gave many gifted people to the church so to equip the saints (believers) for the building up of the church to unity and mature manhood – into the fullness of Christ so to*

not be any longer deceived but to know and reflect Jesus in truth (in love). The church is there to guide people into *maturity* in Christ. Our purpose, from the beginning, was to know God and reflect Him as we co-rule with Him over His earthly creation. Jesus allows for us to return to our purpose as humans. The LORD walks with His children so that they also can teach their own children how to walk with God and be a light in this dark world. Light stands out and so will those who walk with God. May we be a church which embraces *maturity* in Christ to know Him and make Him known to the next generation and all whom He gives us! Amen.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Derek Mason

Heads up!

I am looking forward to my first vacation at Moraine Valley Community Church, which will begin shortly after our Sunday's Service on August 9th and will extend through the 16th. I will be back and available again on Monday the 17th. Therefore, all Bible Studies will be cancelled for August 12 and I will not be available through those dates. Please be sure to contact the church office or other ministry leaders with questions, concerns or immediate needs.

The guest speaker for the August 16th sermon will be a very good friend and colleague of mine, Scott Samuelson. Scott is married to Haley with a 10 year old son, Elijah. They currently live in Grayslake, IL. He received his Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1998 and received his Bachelor of Arts from Taylor University in 1993. Scott is currently the Director of Discipleship and Pastoral

Care at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL. Previously, he was the University Chaplain (overseeing all worship services). He has been involved with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship – USA and was an Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Dodge, IA. When I first met Scott (in 2006) he was the Director/Pastor of Student Ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville, IL. The LORD used Scott in very powerful ways to assist me on my journey into the pastoral field. He was a major influence to me theologically as well as pastorally for insight and direction. He showed me by example how to meet others where they are and bring Christ into those contexts. He gave me an example of a godly lifestyle and welcomed me in as a close friend during a time when I was very much alone. We have many good stories of doing ministry together. Scott is a very godly man and has a huge heart for discipleship. He is incredibly intelligent and I know that you will all enjoy his time with you on August 16th. Please welcome him in the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Derek Mason

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(See Genesis 6-8)

07-02-2010

TWO ANTS? YOU HAVE ONLY TWO ANTS?!? MY WIFE AND I EAT LIKE 100,000 PER DAY EACH!

From the Elders Table

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

I believe few would disagree when I say that the way people look at and engage with the church is very different today than it was even 10 to 20 years ago. Our environment around us is dramatically changing. At one time, it was unthinkable for anyone to sue a church. Unfortunately, today this is not an uncommon occurrence. Our society is becoming less and less church-friendly. Even though America was mostly established by Christian people and on Christian principles, the majority of our nation is no longer interested in the words of Jesus (the Bible). Profit margins and social/political correctness have taken top priority. Humans, like never before in America, are exalting themselves as the ultimate authority. Recently, our Supreme Court ruled by a 5 to 4 vote that the Constitution of America guarantees a right to same-sex marriage. As a nation, we have officially declared that we do not fear the warnings of God's Word. It is true that churches **which have well written legal documents** (such as: *Constitution and Bylaws, Doctrines, Policies, etc.*) will still have the right not to support gay marriage and other practices which clearly go against their religious beliefs. However, those which do not have well written legal documents (as listed above), will and have often already found themselves subject to the requirements of these new laws. Some churches have been legally required to support gay marriages and other contrary practices to their beliefs because their legal documents were not clearly written. Their only options at that point are to submit to the laws of the government or close their doors. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that Moraine Valley Community Church take steps to secure its ability to operate as light in the darkness and honor our LORD in truth

(as He calls us to). The Elders of MVCC (which includes Pastor Derek) have been working with an organization (Start Church) which specializes in establishing a firm legal foundation for churches and ministries so to do ministry as called by our LORD. We have reevaluated and strengthened all our legal documents professionally with the help of Start Church. One of these documents is our Constitution and Bylaws. We have taken everything in our former Constitution and Bylaws and inserted it into a strong legal format and structure for the protection of our church. We have spent many hours in evaluation and editing this document to fit our church best. However, per our Constitution, your vote is required for final approval. Therefore, on July 26th all members (only) will receive a copy of the new / proposed Constitution and Bylaws for your review. There will be one copy given to each member's family. A signature will be required. On August 9th (after service) we will have a final Congregational vote – to approve our new Constitution and Bylaws. Please take the time to review this document carefully and remember that everything included is for the protection of the church – so to exist in these challenging times and still have the freedom to give glory to Jesus Christ our Savior and LORD, as He calls us to do. Thank you and many blessings.

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(See Acts 7:30-34)

03-24-2014

MOSES? DO I HAVE YOUR FULL ATTENTION?

Food For Thought

Enjoy your life
at every moment

Once a fisherman was sitting near the seashore, under the shadow of a tree smoking his beedi. Suddenly a rich businessman passing by approached him and enquired as to why he was sitting under a tree smoking and not working. To this the poor fisherman replied that he had caught enough fish for the day.

Hearing this, the rich man got angry and said: Why don't you catch more fish instead of sitting in shadow wasting your time?

Fisherman asked: What would I do by catching more fish?

Businessman: You could catch more fish, sell them and earn more money, and buy a bigger boat.

Fisherman: What would I do then?

Businessman: You could go fishing in deep waters and catch even more fish and earn even more money.

Fisherman: What would I do then?

Businessman: You could buy many boats and employ many people to work for you and earn even more money.

Fisherman: What would I do then?

Businessman: You could become a rich businessman like me.

Fisherman: What would I do then?

Businessman: You could then enjoy your life peacefully.

Fisherman: What do you think I'm doing right now?

MORAL – You don't need to wait for tomorrow to be happy and enjoy your life. You don't even need to be richer or more powerful to enjoy life. LIFE is this moment, enjoy it fully. As some great men have said "My riches consist not in the extent of my possessions but in the fewness of my wants".

Church Signs

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

Be friends with Jesus, use the Bible, Faith book, not Facebook.

Be ye fishers of men....You catch them,
He'll clean them!

Body piercing saved my life



Birthdays Etc.

Tim Gambill	Aug 2
Dan Heinrich	Aug. 6
Viola Suski	Aug 9
Emma Healy	Aug. 12
Mary Anne Nichols	Aug 16
Emmitt Hays	Aug. 31
Edna Miller	Aug. 31

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
- 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
 - Sarah (daughter) for peace
- Dorothy Martin's brother-in-law (Jeff) – cancer
- Joan DeBauche – Health
- Roy Beehn – recovery from his open heart surgery
- Austin (Megan's cousin) recovery from open heart surgery
- Kathy Delgado and her children – peace, protection and provisions

- Tony Juarez – new job closer to his home
- Pepe's son-in-law (Ed) – health and his wife (Marie) – strength
- Beverly Mattz – back pain, endurance at work, provisions
- Russ' friend Bill – hit by a truck = in critical condition
- Naomi's husband Rich – health
- Beth's mom and dad - health

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Thanks to Mikel Rice

10-11-2013

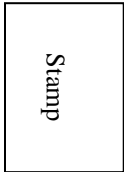
BUT I HAD THE MOST TOYS! DIDN'T I WIN?

Editor's Corner

While rummaging through the myriad of files in the MVCC Voices directory on my computer I came across an audio .mp3 file of the last Sunday worship service at our old church building in Palos Hills. There were a couple of guest speakers that day, one of whom was our former Pastor Rev. Dave Nichols. Most of Dave's Message that day was a description of several milestone events he experienced during his time as our Pastor. I found it very moving to listen to his message of that day as I think in many ways it sums up where the heart of our congregation was at that time and what it remains as today. If anyone would like a copy of that day's service I would be glad to put it onto an audio CD so you could listen to it either on a CD player or your computer. You can call me at 708-917-0479 or email me at djpepe@wowway.com.

Moraine Valley Community Church
10040 S. 88th Ave. Palos Hills, IL 60465

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Moraine Valley Community Church
10040 S. 88th Ave. Palos Hills, IL 60465 708-598-4434