

MVCC Voices

The Monthly Newsletter Of
Moraine Valley Community Church

For the Month of July 2014

From The Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Derek
MASON



July is a month which reminds Americans of the importance of our independence (freedom). The understood value of that freedom, I believe, is somewhat exposed by the sacrifice made to get it. In the American Revolutionary War, somewhere around 50,000 American men lost their lives in military service as they fought for our freedom. Clearly these patriots, as well as all who participated, felt that their involvement and potential sacrifice was worth it to bring freedom to many. Regardless of the incredible odds against them, they valued freedom as the highest precedence. About two thousand years ago, the Creator of the universe felt that His involvement and sacrifice was also worth it to bring freedom to many. This Supreme Divine Being which has perfect wisdom and all-knowing knowledge understood that the only way humanity could be freed from slavery to sin and eternal separation from His presence was through His own very intimate intervention. I am not sure that we completely and continually grasp the majesty and profoundness of this action in our history. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ screams out to all of humanity, “See how

important this event is! Let it humble you in awe and please take advantage of the freedom it provides!” No one can ever argue (with any truth) anymore: that God does not care or is detached and distant from us, or that He is not just or extreme in His love for humanity. He got involved so deeply that it required His human incarnation and life as such! The Divine Father had to sacrifice His Son. The Son (Jesus) took our deserved punishment (due to sin) upon Himself so to give freedom to anyone who follows Him (Luke 4:18; John 8:36).

But salvation/freedom does not just stop there at justification. *The LORD is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is freedom* (2 Cor 3:17). We are purified through Christ’s justification (at the cross) so that we can receive the Spirit of God to indwell us (His presence), transform us into the likeness of Christ, be united to God and join Him in His ministry of reconciliation to a fallen world – as His ambassadors (Rom 3:21-26; 4:25; John 14:15-18; 2 Cor 3:17-18; 5:17-21). The Spirit sets us free from death but we must walk in the Spirit in order to receive the life and peace that it gives (Rom 8:1-8). *We are Children/heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him* (Rom 8:17). We have been freed from the bondage of slavery to sin – a nasty and very powerful enemy of death and destruction. Our chains have been removed in Christ but we still need to walk out of the very prison (of sin) which we have lived in our whole life. The old self must die and the new self must come alive in Christ (Rom 6:1-14).

This can be a very scary step to take because we must face the unknown. But Jesus says, “*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you*” (John 14:18). We have to believe that His Spirit will meet us as we leave our chains behind. This is a test of true faith. This is where we get to experience the power of His indwelling presence with us. This is where we experience the true freedom in which the LORD got involved and sacrificed Himself for. It starts now and endures eternally! This gift is invaluable and the Christ always knew it. Do we? It took the highest precedence with Jesus. We were created to be unified to God yet we *inherited* corruption from the events recorded in Genesis 3 and now Jesus has established a pathway home – to *inherit* freedom, as children of God. The impossible became a reality. May we fully embrace the true freedom that our LORD fought for and majestically and selflessly accomplished for us! May we sing of His power, love, reliability and self-giving nature to help those who are also in need! May we be a church who reflects the qualities of the Christ to our community and world so others would come to know our amazing and wonderful God and live in the fullness of His eternal freedom!

Blessings,
Derek Mason



Thanks to Richard Germain 08-09-2010
MADE IN CHINA?!?

Church Chuckles

A Sunday school teacher began her lesson with a question, “Boys and girls, what do we know about God?”

A hand shot up in the air. “He is an artist!” said the kindergarten boy.

“Really? How do you know?” the teacher asked.

“You know “Our Father, who does art in Heaven....”

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, “Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt.”

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said, “Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming.”

Birthdays Etc.

- Donna Healy July 11
- Harriet Rosain July 11
- Susan Palmer July 12 (out of town)
- Pastor Derek July 16
- Aimeé Heinrich July 17
- Elizabeth Healy July 18
- Linda Wilkinson July 23
- Margie Janda July 24

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday is the birth day of the Christian church. Members of our congregation wore a lot of red clothing to celebrate this special day. The church was decorated with red balloons and red banners, and we feasted on red velvet birthday cake. Red pinwheels were handed out to remind us that the mighty wind of God was blowing at Pentecost.

After worship service, everyone took the balloons and went outside. Pastor Derek Mason gave the benediction, and we all released the red balloons which were carried away, again by God's mighty winds.

Virginia Beehn



Food For Thought

A Couple's Heartbreak

A boy was born to a couple after eleven years of marriage. They were a loving couple and the boy was the apple of their eyes.

One morning, when the boy was around two years old, the husband saw a medicine bottle open. He was late for work so he asked the wife to cap the bottle and put it in the cupboard. The mother, preoccupied in the kitchen, totally forgot the matter.

The boy saw the bottle and playfully went to it and, fascinated with its color, drank it all. It happened to be a poisonous medicine meant for adults in small dosages.

When the child collapsed, the mother hurried him to the hospital, where he died. The mother was stunned; she was terrified. How would she face her husband?

When the distraught father came to the hospital and saw the dead child, he looked at his wife and uttered just four words. "I Love You Darling."

The husband's totally unexpected reaction is proactive behavior. The child is dead. He can never be brought back to life. There is no point in finding fault with the mother. Besides, if only he would have taken the time to put the bottle away, this would not have ever happened.

No point in attaching blame. She had also lost her only child. What she needed at that moment was consolation and sympathy from the husband. That is what he gave her. Sometimes we spend time asking who is responsible or who's to blame, whether in a relationship, in a job or with the people we

know and miss out on the warmth in human relationships we could receive by giving each other support.

After all, shouldn't forgiving someone we love be the easiest thing in the world to do? Treasure what you have. Don't multiply pain, anguish and suffering by holding onto forgiveness. Let go of all your envies, jealousies, unwillingness to forgive, selfishness, and fears and you will find things are actually not as difficult as you think.

If everyone could look at life with this kind of perspective, there would be fewer problems in the world.

Author Unknown



WELL THAT EXPLAINS IT ... YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING FROM THE KING JAMES BOND VERSION

News from Elsie's Pantry

On Saturday, June 21st there were 22 brave souls who got up early and walked the 29th Annual 5K Hunger Walk for Elsie's Pantry. They came from as far as Kankakee and Libertyville to join us for this

worthwhile annual fundraiser. And because of our generous congregations, both Moraine Valley Community Church and Savior Divine Lutheran Church and several walkers who were sponsored, our pantry now has \$1,910 in food credit and donations! That's a new record for us! We do plan to make this a yearly event and we hope you can walk with us next year. Our plan would be to fill a school bus with walkers!

Thank you all for your generosity. Your donations will be used to purchase food for the rest of this year and into 2015. And now that we've opened our boundaries to include Justice we are grateful to our Lord that He makes sure we have all we need to feed every man, woman and child in need in our service areas and beyond.



And speaking of the Lord's blessings, here is another example of how our area churches work together: SS Constantine & Helen have decided they no longer want to run a food pantry and have donated all of their food to us. So far we have collected 3 truck loads and still have more to pick up. They have promised to give us all the food they collect on a regular basis and during their yearly food drives. For more Pantry updates during the month please visit us on Facebook at Elsie's Food Pantry. Thanks to All!!

Remember in Prayer...

- Elsie's Food Pantry: provisions/wisdom/protection
- Community Church: wisdom/guidance/protection
 - Hearts to serve – to build our church (formation of ministries)
 - Discipleship/transformation
- Tony Zappa – knees
- Patsy Rybka – foot recovery/health
 - Vivi and Sandy from China - studies
- Tom Heinrich – healing
- Patty & Brian Lawson – employment & healing
 - Family – faith and healing
- Joyce Skowronski – knee recovery
- Bill Curtis – knee recovery
- Tom Ward – healing/strength/peace
- Sandy Sinclair's: sister-in-law & niece – breast cancer
 - Family = healing
- Loraine's friend: Rose Sorci – cancer
- Linda's sister and brother-in-law: healing
- Ron Trinka – cancer of spine
- Roger Peterson – prostate cancer
- Mary Ann's friends: Helen and Kathy – breast cancer
- Pete Delgado – dementia (Sarah – strength)
- Dotty – lymphoma + Ed – faith/strength
- Dianne Brown – wisdom/protection/strength
- Lisa Acosta – guidance/healing/protection
- Vi Wagner – hip/eyes/strength
- Kathleen (Pat Curtis' daughter) – breast cancer
- Evan (Pat Curtis' grandson) – seizures
- Terry (Pat Curtis' brother) – Heart transplant/eyes
- Dan Tabert: protection/healing/job/family
- Arlena Reyes – mother/father/sister/brother – wisdom
 - Transformation/strength/protection
- Beth Heinrich – strength/wisdom/guidance
- Colin & Libby Martin – ability to have a child
- Aimee Heinrich – guidance/protection (Navy Reserves)
- Mark & Trish: healing/family
- Sam (Joyce's friend) peace/healing (heart attack)
- Carmen – foot surgery recovery
- Rebecca Lewellen: strength/peace/healing/wisdom for her brother
- Prayers for the family of Dennis Pepe's cousin, Sam Pepe, who passed away last weekend

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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!

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