

MVCC Voices

The Monthly Newsletter Of
Moraine Valley Community Church

For the Month of September 2015

From The Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Derek
MASON



One way for us to tell if we are sick or in need of healing is by taking our temperature with a thermometer. Another way is through the acknowledgement of pain. Both of these can inspire us to seek help for healing and restoration. In the Scriptures, the LORD uses an image of “*the Land*” in a similar way.

The Garden of Eden was a place of great abundance, it was without sin and it was a place where God walked among His people. The very end of the Bible also shows a city (New Jerusalem) which is of great abundance, is without sin and is a place where God’s presence is evident. But from Genesis 3 to Revelation 20 the Scriptures expose a story of great pain and struggling for humanity because of sin. The relationship between God and humanity has become corrupted (sickness has come in). Cities are built by humans but they are places of corruption and rebellion against the ways of God. They seek to make a name for themselves through human ingenuity, technology and intellect. However, Abram is one man in which God calls to follow Him (leave what he knows) and says to him, “**I will make your name great!**” Abram

follows, unlike everyone else. Abram is given a promise by God that he would be a blessing to the whole world and that he would inherit a great *land* in which God’s presence would be evident and bless abundantly.

When God’s people follow Him, the *land* that they are in is blessed abundantly but when they do not, famine strikes the *land*, war erupts,

disease strikes and eventually if they still do not listen, exile becomes the final stage.

They lose their *land* and become slaves to another nation. The *land* becomes the thermometer or the alarm for God’s people to tell them that something is very wrong. It was a call to evaluate themselves and return to their Divine Healer (Exodus 15:25-26).

The sickness and pain was never meant to destroy God’s people but to merely make them go back to the Doctor and receive guidance for healing. When they no longer follow the LORD like Abram did but rather go after the ways of the world, then the LORD starts to sound the alarms (of famine, pain, sickness, war) so to guide them back into His blessings. However, Israel (God’s people) often saw these signs as evidence that God was not with them and that they needed to take things into their own hands. This action and mentality only drove them further from God and deeper into His discipline.

Exile was the extreme stage in which God says, “You have not paid any attention to all of my warnings to you, therefore, now I am taking away everything which separates you from Me.” “Everything” can mean money, material items, employment, people, pride, control, arrogance, and all other things that

became more important than God. Exile is a place of stripping away and a clear awareness of our slavery. Once humility has truly set in and pride is gone then an exodus can take place. God can free us from our bondage to sin and He leads us into the desert (the wilderness) where He reveals Himself in truth. The wilderness is a place apart from slavery but also apart from the luxuries of this world. It is a place of lacking worldly comforts but also is where the obvious Divine supply and presence is found. It is here that we find true life and real wisdom. This is where “the good soil” is formed (Matt 13:23). The heart is healed, eyes can now see and ears can now hear. The fullness of Christ starts to be understood and experienced in this place. It is here that we learn how to walk with God and embrace His Spirit.

May we be a people who always recognize the alarms of the *land* when they sound and seek the Divine healer. May we be those who walk with God and guide others from the wilderness back into the Promised Land – the place of abundance and the presence of God is evident!

Many Blessings,
Pastor Derek Mason

Church Signs

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

Come to church – don't wait for the hearse
to bring you.

Coming soon: Manufacturers recall. Are
you ready???

Dairy Queen isn't the only place with
awesome Sundays.

Don't have a prayer? Free refills inside.

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

03-14-2011

Birthdays Etc.

Dennis Pepe	Sept. 5
Marion Hays	Sept. 10
Arlena Reyes	Sept. 23
Roy Beehn	Sept. 26
Sue Miller	Sept. 29 (out of town)
Dorothy Martin	Sept. 30

Famous Last Words

“It is nothing.”

Archduke Franz Ferdinand's last words after being
shot in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914

“Don't let it end this way, tell them I said
something.”

Poncho Villa

“My work here is done, why wait?”

Eastmans' (founder of Kodak) last words before he
killed himself.

Dying is easy... Comedy is hard.

Marcel Marceau

“Call the office and tell them I won't be in on
Monday.”

Betty Allen, who worked until her death at 93

Food For Thought

An old man's views on grief.

I'm old. What that means is that I've survived (so far) and a lot of people I've known and loved did not.

I've lost friends, best friends, acquaintances, co-workers, grandparents, mom, relatives, teachers, mentors, students, neighbors, and a host of other folks. I have no children, and I can't imagine the pain it must be to lose a child. But here's my two cents...

I wish I could say you get used to people dying. But I never did. I don't want to. It tears a hole through me whenever somebody I love dies, no matter the circumstances. But I don't want it to "not matter". I don't want it to be something that just passes. My scars are a testament to the love and the relationship that I had for and with that person. And if the scar is deep, so was the love. So be it.

Scars are a testament to life. Scars are a testament that I can love deeply and live deeply and be cut, or even gouged, and that I can heal and continue to live and continue to love. And the scar tissue is stronger than the original flesh ever was. Scars are a testament to life. Scars are only ugly to people who can't see.

As for grief, you'll find it comes in waves. When the ship is first wrecked, you're drowning, with wreckage all around you. Everything floating around you reminds you of the beauty and the magnificence of the ship that was, and is no more. And all you can do is float. You find some piece of the wreckage and you hang on for a while. Maybe it's some physical thing. Maybe it's a happy memory or a photograph. Maybe it's a person who is also floating. For a while, all you can do is float. Stay alive. In the beginning, the waves are 100 feet tall and crash over you without mercy. They come 10 seconds apart and don't even give you

time to catch your breath. All you can do is hang on and float. After a while, maybe weeks, maybe months, you'll find the waves are still 100 feet tall, but they come further apart. When they come, they still crash all over you and wipe you out. But in between, you can breathe, you can function. You never know what's going to trigger the grief. It might be a song, a picture, a street intersection, the smell of a cup of coffee. It can be just about anything...and the wave comes crashing. But in between waves, there is life.

Somewhere down the line, and it's different for everybody, you find that the waves are only 80 feet tall. Or 50 feet tall. And while they still come, they come further apart. You can see them coming. An anniversary, a birthday, or Christmas, or landing at O'Hare. You can see it coming, for the most part, and prepare yourself. And when it washes over you, you know that somehow you will, again, come out the other side. Soaking wet, sputtering, still hanging on to some tiny piece of the wreckage, but you'll come out.

Take it from an old guy. The waves never stop coming, and somehow you don't really want them to. But you learn that you'll survive them. And other waves will come. And you'll survive them too.

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Thanks to Daniel Gutscher (See Genesis 5:27) 11-01-2010

THOSE JERKS ARE RAISING RETIREMENT AGE
TO EIGHT HUNDRED!!!

From the Elders' Table

The elders would like to take this opportunity to thank our church members for staging our first community wide event - The Moraine Valley Community Faire. The fact that our small but growing congregation, old and new members alike, were able to work together in so many ways was evidence of how far our church has come in the last year. This was another way our church could reach out to our community and live up to its name, Moraine Valley Community Church.

We would like to especially thank Edith and Robert Thompson for planning this event. For those of you who were not able to attend we had a fire truck and ambulance on site for the children to investigate. We had a clown who did face painting and made balloon animals which the children loved. There was a bouncy house that was never empty and last but certainly not least was the dunk tank. We want to thank those valiant volunteers who survived many surprise trips into the icy cold water. We especially want to thank our Pastor Derek for being the first valiant man to take up the challenge, followed by Robert Thompson, Nikko Lopez and Virginia's grandson, Alex Quigley. Even a couple of the visiting firemen tried their hands at dunking the Pastor and one was successful. All our guests were greeted at our welcome table by Joyce Skowronski, Clarence DeBauche and Joan DeBauche. They were given bags with information about our church and wrist bands that said "(John 15:5) I am the vine: abide in me – apart from me you can do nothing." There were games and candy prizes galore and a table where

kids could draw and paint and glitter a special art piece to take home. A picnic area was set up on the grass and hotdogs, bags of chips, and cookies were served by Carmen Mohn and Kathy Delgado. Orange drink from McDonald's and bottles of cold water were readily available. Our kitchen was manned by Herb Mohn. Many of our church members circulated among the visitors and showed them through their smiles and welcoming words what Moraine Valley Community Church is all about. The games were developed and created by Terry Zappa, Edith Thompson, Sandi Sinclair and Mary Anne Nichols.

In the afternoon our visitors were treated to some wonderful music in the sanctuary. Thank you to our music ministry team and Virginia Beehn and guest musicians Mike Cusak and Beth Wachowski.

There isn't enough room to personally thank everyone for their contribution, but we hope all our members know how grateful the elders are for their efforts. Whether you were a goodwill ambassador or you helped set up or take down, please know that you helped to spread Christian love in our community. We look forward to more events such as this because we know **"Anything is possible through God."** Matthew 19:26

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THESE POTLUCKS ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND

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
- 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
- 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
- Roy Beehn – recovery from his 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
- Beth and her family as they mourn the passing of her mother

Something to Think About

Marriage is not Beautiful

Marriage is ugly; you see the absolute worst in someone. You see them when they're mad, sad, being stubborn, when they are so unlovable they make you scream. But you also get to see them when they are laughing so hard that there are tears running down their face and they can't help but let out those strange gargling or snorting noises. You see them at 3:00am when the world is asleep except you two and you're eating in the middle of the kitchen floor. You get to see the sides of them that no one else does and it's not always pretty. It's snorting while laughing, it's the tears when it feels like it's all crashing down, it's the farting, it's the bedhead and bad breath, it's the random dances, it's the anger and the joy.

Marriage is not a beautiful thing but it is amazing. It's knowing that someone loves you so much and won't leave you even though you said something nasty. It's having someone have your back no matter what. It's fights over stupid things like someone not doing the dishes or picking up after themselves. And it's those nights you fall asleep in each other's arms, feeling like there will never be enough time with them. It's cleaning up their throw up or just rubbing their back when they're sick. It's the dirtiest, hardest, most rewarding job there is, because at the end of the day you get to crawl into bed with your best friend, the weirdest, most annoying, loving, goofy, perfect person that you know. Marriage is not beautiful, but it is the closest thing to heaven you will find on this earth.

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

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10040 S. 88th Ave. Palos Hills, IL 60465 708-598-4434