

MVCC Voices

The Monthly Newsletter Of
Moraine Valley Community Church

For the Month of February 2016

From The Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Derek
Mason



The fact that February celebrates Valentine's Day (a day of *love*), makes it almost a given that this article should have some sort of message on that important subject. I would go so far to say that "*love*" is one of the most foundational and fundamental subject in the Scriptures. God is *love*, He created everything out of *love* and He gave humanity His Bible so to guide them back into His *love*. In Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus says that the greatest commandment is to *love* the LORD your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Then He says that there is a second much like it - to *love* one another as yourself. Jesus then makes the statement that the entire Bible is wrapped up in these two commandments.

So we should be asking ourselves, "What does that mean for us to live these two commandments?" The Ten Commandments give us a little insight. The first four deal with *loving* God (vertical relationship) and the last six deal with *loving* one another (horizontal relationships). I would even argue that when we learn how to first *love* God accurately, we will only then understand how to truly *love* one another –

as we were intended. This makes sense considering that after our relationship with the LORD fell apart (in the Garden of Eden – Genesis 3) then our whole world fell apart as well.

The first two of the Ten Commandments say to NEVER have any other gods with the LORD nor make any idols (anything that is put in His place of preeminence in our lives). All

humans have a natural tendency to do this but will often strongly deny it.

Unfortunately, nothing is more dangerous, destructive and common to humanity.

Therefore, unless we consciously remove them, they are absolutely present and working against us. The third

commandment is to not lift up the name of the LORD as worthless/useless (to have no fear of Him/no respect or honor). We have often related this to cursing (with His name) but that is not all this is limited to. The name of someone represents their true nature – who they are. Therefore, this command is a call to know the LORD (in truth) and have faith in what He: has done, does and reveals that He will do. He says to us, "Do not treat Me as worthless

(irrelevant/unimportant/unreal)." The fourth

commandment is to honor the Sabbath day (a day of rest and solitude with the LORD).

This is the LORD saying, "Do not let this world consume you! I want you to know Me intimately and walk with Me in every part of your life (spend time with Me) because I *love* you and I am the only place where you will find true life! I know this because this is how I created you."

Therefore, when we learn to *love* the LORD our God with all our heart, soul and mind (as stated in the previous paragraph), we will be so filled with Him that His *love* will empower us to *love* one another as He intended us to. This is the story of the Bible. We were created to know and reflect God's *love* but our rebellion ripped us out of that place of favor and into a world of darkness and death. The LORD gave us His Word (Bible) so we could once again enjoy His *love*. It starts with Him and flows out into the world through us. May we *love* the LORD with all our hearts, souls and minds that His *love* might reach those around us and reveal (in truth) His wonderful name. Amen.

Many Blessings,
Pastor Derek Mason

Youth Group Update Megan Bustamante

When *Living Water Youth Group* started this summer, it was mostly just a few kids hanging out and going to different events, but since the beginning of the school year things have started to take off in a very encouraging direction. The name for the youth group has provided a sense of group identity and helps keep our focus on what the goals are. John 7:38 says that those who believe in Jesus, will have rivers of Living Water flowing from them. I can't help but think about how beautiful it would be for our youth to be so connected and committed to Jesus Christ that the Living Water overflows from within them.

So far the students of *Living Water Youth Group* have enjoyed the many activities that we have had. Our weekly meetings, movie nights, game nights and other events have started to form a community in which students feel safe and comfortable. This sense of community helps

build trust and opens doors to new conversations. I think that many students today are looking for a place in which they belong, and my prayer is that they may find that within *Living Water Youth Group*.

As we move forward and explore even more what God has planned for these young people, I get very excited as I think about some of the ideas we are hoping to put into play in this next year. We are planning on doing some fundraising for special events, getting more involved in community service, reaching out to more students in the area and developing prayer partners.

This last goal is one that we need your help with. I would love to have a different person in the congregation praying for each student that is involved in the youth group. That means that I am currently looking for four prayer partners, and more to come as the group grows. The goal is that these prayer partners pray for the student at least once a week for six months. If this interests you and you would like to be one of our prayer partners please let me know. I have already seen God at work in the lives of these kids and I know that he has even more amazing things planned for *Living Water Youth Group*.

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(See Psalm 100)

04-21-2014

YOU WANNA MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD? THESE ARE YOUR GUYS!

Birthdays Etc.

*Pete Delgado	Feb. 4 (homebound)
Vivian Wagner	Feb. 9
Landon Roth	Feb. 23
Patty Gambill	Feb. 25

From The Elder's Table.

Usually we have a section in the Voices Monthly dedicated to the Elders Table which gives insight into what is going on regarding the operations and direction of our church. This month we wanted to allow our Life Group leaders to share with us how their groups went. We established four Life Groups which met once a week for an eight week period. There was time for fellowship, Bible study/discussion (on the material "Not a Fan" by Kyle Idleman) and prayer. These Life Groups were a very important effort for our church community to become more united/strengthened (considering our recent growth) and for individuals to be stretched spiritually in a new way. We put all of our adult ministries on hold during these eight weeks so to make our Life Groups the priority. February 7th will mark the first week following the completion of our Life Groups and all ministries (prayer, Bible Study, men's and women's, etc.) will return to their normal operations. We hope that you will plug in to these ministries as they start back up again. Let us hear from the leaders of our Life Groups as they share a bit of their experience with us.

Virginia Beehn's Group (Met on Monday Evenings): Our Life Group has been successful in strengthening friendships between long-time members and new members in our church. Our discussions from the videos we have watched together have really made us explore whether we are

"fans or followers" of Jesus. Our goal for spiritual growth and maturity was an experienced reality each week. For our final meeting on February 1st our group wanted to do a missionary type project. So, we are volunteering to help prepare food packets for third-world countries through *Feed My Starving Children*.

Rob and Edith Thompson's Group (Met on Monday Evenings): A true Christian fellowship has been present at our Life Group meetings. We have had lively conversations, not always in complete agreement, but respectful, thoughtful and definitely meaningful. Everyone has looked forward to the next week and they were deeply missed if unable to attend. The Life Group experience has truly been a great ministry for all of us.

Herb Mohn's Group (Met on Tuesday Evenings): We feel blessed to be able to meet in this more intimate setting. It has brought each of us closer and we have enjoyed each other's company. We have been challenged by the subject matter and interesting questions. However, the small group setting has encouraged each person to express themselves freely. I feel that each of us has definitely grown from this experience.

Tony Juarez's Group (Met on Wednesday Evenings): I am (and I believe I speak for everyone in our group) so glad that we have had our Life Group experience together. We have: made great connections, grown in our prayer life, been able to share our lives and thoughts with each other. We have blessed one another with encouragement and accountability in our daily walk and growth in the LORD. We are all looking forward to see how God continues to grow our church family and the continual revelation of His work in our lives. We have all been truly blessed.

Remember in Prayer...

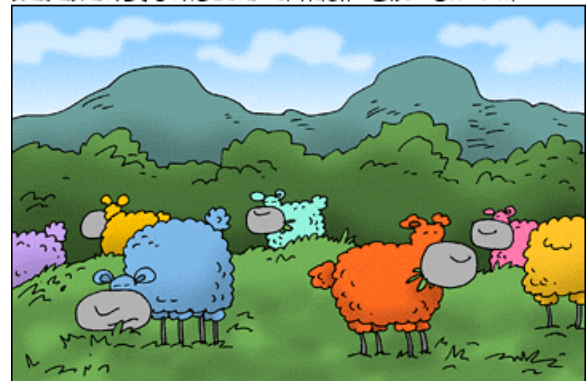
- Elsie's Food Pantry: provisions/wisdom/protection
- MVCC: wisdom/guidance/protection
 - Hearts to serve – to build our church (formation of ministries)
 - Wisdom and guidance in our new location
 - Discipleship/transformation/leadership
 - Youth and Children's Ministry growth and development
- Emmitt Hayes – heart/health/ condo restoration and living arrangements
- Pete Delgado – dementia (Sarah – strength)
- Vi Wagner – hip/arm/eyes/strength
- Mark DeBauche: cancer healing / strength /endurance / Dr's wisdom in treatments
- Edith Martinez – Her knee to heal and her Sister for healing
- Dorothy Martin's brother-in-law (Jeff) – cancer
- Roy Beehn – provisions, healing from his open heart surgery
- Tony Juarez – new job closer to his home
- Russ McGurty – job & insurance situation, surgery and pain relief
- Dan Tabert – foot recovery
- Linda Hudecek – lungs healing
- Harriet – strength in her legs, walking
- Becky Lewellen – employment
- Gary Rizza – hand and back healing
- Victor (Megan's 14 yr old cousin recently adopted from Ukraine) PTSD – poss. former abuse

- Bill Clemente – family healing and provisions
- Terry & Jennifer Zappa – grieving the loss of Tony
- Prayers for Kevin and Denise, Dennis Pepe's daughter and Son-In-Law for health issues.

Give Thanks For.....

- Megan and Chucho received the health insurance we have been praying for
- Edith's sister has been making progress in her rehabilitation
- Bill Curtis is still with us and doing well after his recent heart attack
- Sheri Clemente is cancer free
- Our Life Groups were a very blessed ministry for many people
- Our Youth and Children ministries are growing
- Daniel's neck surgery was successful
- Mark DeBauche's - the LORD continues to be present with many little miracles and blessings
- The LORD continues to reveal His presence in our church as our: protector, guide and provider.

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Thanks to Richard Germain (See Genesis 37:3-36)

09-13-2010

WHERE JOSEPH'S COAT CAME FROM

Food For Thought

A Lesson for us All

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

MORAL

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, a lot of it! The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Every one of our troubles can be another steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up. Remember the five simple rules to continuing happiness:

1. Free your heart from hatred by forgiving those perceived snubs, insults or worse from those around us.
2. Free your mind from worries, worrying about something, which is only a slight possibility, changes nothing and rarely do those worries become a reality anyway.
3. Live simply and give thanks for what you have often.

4. Give more. More of your time, more of your knowledge, more of your resources and especially more of you to those who need it.
5. Expect less from people but more from yourself.

Author Unknown



JUDGE NOT, LEST YE BE JUDGED!

I've Learned

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.
George Bernard Shaw

A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money.
G. Gordon Liddy

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.
P.J. O'Rourke, Civil Libertarian

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!
Pericles (430 B.C.)

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