

# MVCC Voices

The Monthly Newsletter Of  
Moraine Valley Community Church

For the Month of July 2016

## 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**. These patriots, felt that their involvement and 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 self-sacrificing intervention. I am not sure that we completely and continually grasp the majesty and profoundness of this. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ screams out to all of humanity, “*See how important this event is! Please take advantage of the **freedom***”

*God has established for you!”* 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). Jesus **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 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 with 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 accomplished for us, at His expense! May we sing of His power, love, reliability and self-giving nature to help those who are also in need (enslaved)! 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



### *In Memoriam*

*Please join together in prayer as we  
mourn the passing of two members of  
Moraine Valley Community Church*

*Peter Delgado  
and*

*Harriet Rosain*

*Remember also Their friends and families  
in your prayers as they mourn the loss of  
their loved one.*

## From The Elders' Table

One of the best times around the Elders' Table is when we talk about what we see happening in our church. One of the Elders remarked that our logo – the tree whose trunk is made up of those outreaching hands – is so appropriate for us. We are, indeed, a “disciple making” church, just as our mission statement describes us.

It is appropriate that in the month of July, Pastor Derek's sermon series will come from the book of Acts or as some refer to it – The Acts of the Apostles. Throughout the book of Acts, phrases like “And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47) appear reminding us of how the apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, went out into the land to spread the gospel of Jesus.

It is wonderful to see that happening in our church as our ministries grow like limbs from our tree of faith. We are so thankful for the efforts being made by so many of our church family - growing the much needed limbs, branching out, reaching those in need. We are thankful for: our Men's Ministry, our Prayer Ministry, our Deliverance Ministry, our Rachel Circle women's ministry, our new Lilac Ministry, and our beloved Elsie's Pantry. We are also thankful for the beginning of our Summer Small Groups because it strengthens the roots of our tree of faith.

Again, from Acts 2:41, “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” Four more have been added to our number this June as we celebrated the baptisms of Renee Wronecki, Julie Stork, Maygen Stork, and Ricky Lopez. We are so thankful for Pastor Derek's tireless efforts comforting, counseling and praying with those who

come in contact with our church through our loving ministries.

Like the balloons released on Pentecost Sunday, Christ's message is spreading out into the land, sometimes settling nearby, sometimes far reaching. May we continue to be that church growing from within and reaching (with our limbs/branches) out to all we can touch with the power of the Holy Spirit as the root our strength. Amen!

## Church Signs

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

Extreme Savings offered Here, No Coupons required!

Free redemptions inside.

Friends don't let friends die without Jesus

Get off Facebook and get into my Book.

Have you hugged your pastor today?

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Robert

04-18-2011

ON OUR ISLAND, EVERY SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY

## Living Water Youth Group

Summer is here and Living Water Youth Group is ready to enjoy it. Our summer events have already started and from the looks of it this could be an exciting season for the youth group.

In June we had our Start of Sumer Cook-out and we had the largest attendance of a youth group event so far. The kids reached out and invited friends from school and sports and the response was very positive with four new students coming. Together we enjoyed good food, played many games and just got to know everyone a bit better.

Having these new students join us for evening proved to be very exciting and enjoyable and also opens the door to share God's word with even more people. Please continue to be praying for the youth group. Pray that these new students join us again and enjoy being a part of the Living Water Youth Group community. Pray for wisdom and guidance for us leaders as growth and new personalities can at times create new challenges. Pray that whatever happens during events and regular meetings that the name of Jesus may be made know and glorified. And pray that we can reach even more students this summer as we have other new and exciting events coming up.

In July we will be going to Feed My Starving Children and packing meals for children living in poverty around the world and taking a day trip to Six Flags Great America. If you know of anyone that would be interested in attending or you would like to help chaperone either of these events please let Megan know and we can get you more information. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. God is working, things are happening and we are excited!

# Food For Thought

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: *“I am blind, please help.”*

There were only a few coins in the hat.

A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were.

The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, “Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?”

The man said, “I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way.”

What he had written was: *“Today is a beautiful day and I cannot see it.”*

Do you think the first sign and the second sign were saying the same thing?

Of course both signs told people the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people they were so lucky that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

*Moral of the story: Be thankful for what you have. Be creative. Be innovative. Think differently and positively.*

*Invite others towards good with wisdom. Live life with no excuse and love with no regrets. When life gives you a 100 reasons*

*to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile. Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear. Keep the faith and drop the fear.*

*Great men say, “Life has to be an incessant process of repair and reconstruction, of discarding evil and developing goodness.... In the journey of life, if you want to travel without fear, you must have the ticket of a good conscience.”*

*The most beautiful thing is to see a person smiling... And even more beautiful is, knowing that you are the reason behind it!!!*

Author Unknown



## Give Thanks For.....

- Sheri Clemente is recovering well from her heart attack
- Russ is getting hip surgery very soon
- Sergio is getting better
- God has given deliverance to many this month through our church
- God’s provisions at Elsie’s Pantry for purity and refocus
- The many people whom God is turning their heart toward MVCC

## Remember in Prayer...

- Elsie's Food Pantry: provisions/wisdom/protection
- MVCC: wisdom/guidance/protection from all evil
  - Wisdom and guidance in our new location
  - Discipleship/transformation/leadership
  - Youth and Children's Ministry growth and development
  - Women's and Men's ministries to mature and grow
  - That our financial giving would pick back up
- Sarah Delgado – grieving the loss of Peter
- Vivian Wagner – hip/arm/eyes/strength – broken ankle
- Mark DeBauche: cancer healing / strength /pain / anemia
- Tony Juarez – closer job and provisions at home
- Russ McGurty – job, family & insurance situation, surgery and pain relief
- Dan Tabert – foot recovery, cancer healing, peace, guidance, provisions
- Harriet – strength in her legs, adjusting to new home
- Becky Lewellen – employment
- Bill Clemente – family healing and provisions
- Doreen DeBauche – continued healing and recovery
- Gary Rizza – back issues (pain relief and healing)
- Megan's Aunt (Dawn) – ovarian cancer (healing)

- Christina (Farris) – brain tumor
- Sergio Sostre – pancreatitis

## Sue Miller Memorial

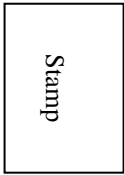
As many of you know a longtime member of our Church, Sue Miller, passed away on May 7th of this year. Sue was born in Montana on September 29, 1920. She was baptized and became a member of Foster Park Baptist Church (the forerunner of MVCC) on June 1, 1955. Sue and her husband Ernest had two boys and a girl who were very active at Camp Grow. According to Beth Heinrich, Sue's generosity to Beth's daughter Aimee' literally changed and molded her life.

There will be memorial service for Sue held on July 9th at 1:30 pm. The service will be held at the Siena Center—Dominican Convent located in Racine Wisconsin at:  
5635 Erie Street  
Racine, WI 53402



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

Dated Material  
Address Change Requested



---

# MVCC Voices

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