

MVCF

January 2025 Newsletter

2650 Melbourne Drive San Diego CA 92123 | Phone: 858.278.2633 | www.missionvillage.church

Pastor's perspective

Changed by Grace, Part 1

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Happy New Year! My prayer for us as a church family as we head into a new year is that this would be a year where we grow closer to Jesus, fall more in love with Jesus, and become more like Jesus. But as we saw this past Sunday, how we grow and change makes all the difference in the world. While self-effort can indeed lead to some life change, when it comes to matters of the heart and personal transformation, self-effort only goes so far (and not very far at that!). A year of growth fueled by self-effort in all likelihood leads to frustration, not transformation.

God is the one who brings about true transformation and change into our lives. As Romans 12:1-2 reminds us, we are not commanded to transform ourselves, but to be transformed (passive, where God is the one doing the transforming). This means that our job is not to change ourselves, but place ourselves in a position where God can change us.

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Pen	1
Pastor's Pen Cont.	2
Calendar	3
Advent Photos	4
Advent Photos	5
January Celebrations	5
Council Members	6
Contact Information	6

Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Adult Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Children's Bible

*Pastor's perspective continued***Small Groups:**Monday

1:00 p.m. Afternoon

Bible Study at MVCF

6:30 p.m. Women's

Bible Study at MVCF

Tuesday9:30 a.m. Bible Study at
MVCF6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
OnlineWednesday6:30 p.m. Youth Group at
MVCF**Church Work Party
Every Fourth****Saturday
of the month****8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**
refreshment will be
provided.**For more contact:****Frank Romeo**

This is where spiritual growth and transformation gets really practical. Instead of exerting self-effort in trying to change ourselves, our job is much simpler: get in the way of God's transforming grace, and let him do his work in you. And the bible gives us many different ways to get in the way of God's grace, which theologians call "means of grace."

For the first few months of this year, I'm going to use this newsletter article to explore these various means of grace. We'll look at practical ways that we can take in and meditate on God's transforming Word. We'll examine different kinds of prayer and see that prayer not only places us before God, but also changes us even as we pray in real time. And we'll explore the critical role of community to see that just as we are shaped and formed by our biological families (for better or worse) we are shaped by the family of God to become more like Jesus. The goal of exploring these means of grace is not to add more to your to do checklist, but to help you get in the way of God's grace and stay there. That is where true transformation, change, and growth takes place.

Two final notes as we enter this new year together. First, I know that this past year was a very difficult year for many of us. If you are experiencing grief and pain as we enter a new year, please know that we are not going into a new year as if everything is fine and all of that pain is in the rear view mirror. We are here for you. Your church family is here to walk with you. So please let me know how I can serve you during this difficult season.

Second, some people like to try to read through the bible in a year as a helpful spiritual practice. I think that is a wonderful practice, provided that you don't get mad at yourself if/when you get off track. If reading through the bible is something you would like to try, I would suggest a reading plan on the Bible App called "One Story that Leads to Jesus." It incorporates videos from The Bible Project to help you understand the biblical texts you are reading, and typically includes a few chapters of bible reading each day. This is the plan I am using this year, so I would love it if some or many of you used the same plan and we can talk about it as we go through the bible together. My practice is to listen to the audio version of the bible as I read. I find that it helps me go at a slower pace and really take in God's Word at a deeper level. It also helps me to stay more focused on God's Word as I read and tune out distractions.

Heavenly Father, may we as a church family this year grow closer to Jesus, fall more in love with Jesus, and be changed by you to become more like Jesus. Do you work in us and through us this year. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Steve

JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed	2	3	4
5 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service Epiphany Joint	6 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	7 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	8 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth Group	9	10	11 Steve Johnson's Celebration of Life
12 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	13 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	14 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer	15 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth Group	16	17	18
19 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	20 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible	21 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom	22 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth	23	24	25 All Church Work Party
26 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	27 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible	28 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom	29 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth	30	31	

Advent & Sunday School Photos courtesy of Terri Carver





JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



Happy Birthday

Roger & June McCollough 01/02

Senyo Adjibolosoo 01/07

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Col. 3:12

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

2650 Melbourne Drive

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Phone: 858-278-2633

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Council Members

Pastor	Steve de Vos
Moderator	Ronda Adams
Clerk	Joanna de Vos
Financial Secretary	Tony DaVee
Treasurer	June McCollough
Children's Ministry	Open
Youth Ministry	Terri Carver
Adult Ministry	Open
Stewardship	Frank Romeo
Fellowship	Jenny Fiori
Service	Open
Missions / Evangelism	Matt & Ellen Davis
Finance Ministry	Open
Worship	Hannah French

Sunday Schedule

Worship & Children's Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.

Nursery & Toddler Care is Available During Worship Service

Service will be live on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#)

Elders

Pastor /Elder..... Steve de Vos
Administrative Elder Tony DaVee
Elder..... Carl Jensen

Staff

Administrative Assistant..... Judy Yacob
Nursery Attendant..... Hannah French