

# The Message



MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Volume 23 Issue 9

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## Caught In The Act!

### *"THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE"*

The past is like a strange country that's mostly obscured except for some good 'fishing holes.' My memory loves to go fishing there on occasion, it will hook a particular memory and as I pull it ashore, if I don't like it I can throw it back and fish for another. It's a country where the 'Good Old Days' happened; and yet, when we were there, we could hardly wait to leave them and journey toward a new country called, 'The future.' We instinctively know which direction to travel to get there; it's always away from the known and toward the unknown.

We pack up our experiences, training, education, and values and rush toward the opportunities of the future. It seldom takes long before we start reminiscing about 'The Good Old Days' and we begin to long for those simpler ways.

Of course we can't go back in time, but we can reminisce with endless referrals to, 'When I was a kid . . .' or 'On the farm . . .' or even, 'Back in Kansas . . .' e.g.

MBC is a great 'fishing hole' where I can pull up

great memories from the past forty years. It's well stocked with wonderful memories about God's grace, love, power and provisions. It's also a great story about team work and the awesome people whom God sent to come 'along side' to help with our mission. You're invited to join me so;

### LET'S START FISHING!

**I love remembering that God NEVER PANICS.** If we will but trust and obey Him, He knows what we need to do to get through a particular enemy or trial because He's already there and He knows the way.

Listen to God's calm words of strength and courage through King David:

*"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? . . . <sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; . . . I will be confident." Psalm 27:1, 3 (ESV)*

**I love remembering particular promises God used to give us courage when we felt we wanted to panic.** He tells us so many times and in so many ways that we should never give our fear to

people. Notice the very center verses of your Bible in Psalm 118: 8-9; they also capsulate the message of our Bible. Listen to the paraphrase by C.E.V.

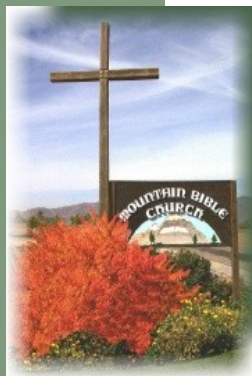
*"It is better to trust the LORD for protection than to trust anyone else, <sup>9</sup> including strong leaders." Psalm 118:8-9 (CEV)*

**I love remembering the teams of men and women** He has provided within our church family! These men and women have made major contributions of time, energy, talents, and resources, to build God's kingdom and with it, the Mountain Bible Church. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your great reward is still coming.

'Who are we that God would choose to bless us so bountifully?'

**A memory** that's entirely overwhelming has been to see that **God is simultaneously judicious and merciful; holy and full of Grace.** God is altogether good, all the time.

**I love recalling that very first team God gave us** and how we prayed earnestly seeking God's wisdom and direction for this church family. We decided MBC should be, an '**INDEPENDENT BIBLE**



## Caught In The Act continued...

**CHURCH.** We wanted to follow the teachings of the Scriptures without variance or intrusion by a denominational headquarters. Our first and final authority for decisions regarding this Church family must be the Holy Scriptures.

I believe God granted the wisdom we prayed for. As evidence; we have seen how so many denominations, through their leaders, have virtually abandoned the teachings of the Bible.

We unanimously agreed that our focus must be upon teaching and preaching the Holy Scriptures. They contain the Words that give Life. Therefore we chose as our motto:

**“HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE!”**

Our motto is taken from Philippians 2:16 (KJV)

We chose to call our team of men who oversee our spiritual ministries **ELDERS**; the team of men in charge of decisions about our buildings and property we chose to call **TRUSTEES**. We also decided to follow the Biblical examples and fill those two teams with men, in spite of social trends.

The men and women who help distribute help of all kinds to people in need; we chose to call **‘DEACONS’** (servants). We have an Elder in charge of Deacon Ministries.

The requirement to serve as a Deacon is simply to be a helper and a servant. There are needs every where in all directions; so find a need and fill it. The requests for assistance from our community are staggering. Thanks to all of you who help by serving and the variety ways you serve.

**Memories flood my mind** with so many names of **true ‘Heroes of The Faith;’** men and women willing to trust and obey God irregardless of trials. **MANY OF THESE HEROS ARE WITH US TODAY!**

**I love remembering the teams of leaders** we had in 1991 when I came back from a one day conference and proclaimed I had just heard something that made so much sense I would like all of us to pray about some simple organizational changes for smoother, better coordinated operations. The process of change was empowered and those leaders endured much!

From the very beginning we believed our church must be inspired and directed by its mission and purpose rather than by traditions of how ‘church’ has always been done. Now our structure facilitated our intent.

**Memories can give strength and courage in the midst of profound tri-**

**als and intense testing.** They help us sort out that which is authentic and genuine within ourselves as well as in others. **When I use words like; authentic, genuine, real, faithful, dependable, my mind is again inundated with so many people who have blessed both my family and our church family by being that kind of people.** I am truly grateful for this marvelous blessing.

**I love remembering** the assistance our fellowship has extended to widows and orphans (that are truly widows and orphans) in our church family and community. This honors both the widows and orphans and it honors God.

**I love remembering** how from the very beginning we made a purposeful commitment to be a church that practiced **LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, and FORGIVENESS;** instead of a church with a cold judicious demeanor of condemning and condescending. You have never lost that commitment.

**I love catching a memory called STAFF.** We have a fantastic staff that truly pursues excellence. They are awesome! It’s important for you to remember that we work as one team; so when you appreciate one staff, you are in actuality appreciating the team. As John Wooden used to tell his

UCLA basketball teams that every time a basket is scored, five players helped make that basket possible.

Down through the years God has demonstrated His amazing grace by helping us assemble an excellent staff. I keep telling God I need extraordinary help and apparently He agrees!!

**I love seeing** that so many within our church family have truly made a **‘commitment to pursue excellence’ in your ministries.** We understand that excellence is not perfection but rather, it’s doing the best we are capable of doing within the time and other constraints we work within.

**I am grateful as I remember** the high percentage in our church family who have and are demonstrating a true **‘Servants Heart.’** Without hesitation, you serve each other as well as those in our community.

Believing the words of Christ that being a ‘Servant’ is **THE** most valued commodity in His Kingdom, we must continually pursue being even better servants.

We believe authentic spirituality will be evidenced with a servant’s heart. From the Pastor, to the Elders, to the Trustees, and the staff; as well as our entire MBC family, all

**40<sup>th</sup>** Mountain Bible Church  
Serving the community  
1971-2011

**September  
11<sup>th</sup>**

**Mountain Bible Church  
Tehachapi California**

**One worship service at 10am  
Lunch following with fun activities**

## No Children, No Future

It has been said that Christianity is one generation from extinction.

A writer visiting a church in India was invited in for tea and a chance to escape the noise and activity of the children that surrounded him. The pastor had been at that church for 20 years and had started with a congregation of 80. A perplexing problem existed as the congregation of that church was stuck in a rut with 80 members. The pastor asked for advice and was told that he should involve children in his church.

A few years later the same writer visited the church which now had over 300 members and he wrote an article with the following slogan; No Children, No Church; No Children, No Future.

At the conclusion of our 2011 Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS) there was a Friday evening service featuring some of the activities of the week. The church was packed with children and their parents, most of whom I had not seen before. It was noisy and the busyness of the children was enough to make one dizzy. The noise level would rival that of a departing passenger plane from LAX. The excitement was contagious and when Lori Henry asked for volunteers to demonstrate what they had learned, children with raised hands were jumping up and down trying to attract her attention. What enthusiasm and what a golden opportunity to teach children so eager to learn.

During the summer, Christy, Lori and some teen-

agers had a meeting and launched an odd activity for each Sunday morning. The teenagers pioneered special events such as, Crazy Hair Sunday or Funny Sock Sunday. They must have had a Chalk on the Pavement Sunday as I noticed pictures in chalk and strange messages like 'God Rocks' and 'Mrs. Lori I Love U' scrawled on the pavement near the education modules. One Sunday morning the quiet orderliness of our adult worship was pleasantly interrupted by some wild and quirky hair designs, fashioned by some very creative hair stylist.

When Betsy and I started attending Mountain Bible Church, Lori Henry was directing the Sunday school and DVBS as she is doing now. Each year Lori seems to come up with something new and interesting that keeps the children coming back for more. It

is a big job but she has been able to persuade quality teachers and teenagers to help.

On Family Worship Sunday after some young adults gave testimonies and before Lori read her story about 'Ten Gallon Sam' she mentioned that it was rewarding to hear Christian testimonies from prior Sunday school students. I was reminded of the song 'Thank You' which has a phrase 'Thank you for giving to the Lord; I am so glad you gave!' Thank you Lori! Thank you Christy! (Please excuse me for including my daughter.)

Written by Sam Conklin

## MEN'S LOGIC:

THE FOLLOWING IS PERFECTLY LOGICAL TO ALL MALES. A WIFE ASKS HER HUSBAND, "COULD YOU PLEASE GO SHOPPING FOR ME AND BUY ONE GALLON OF MILK, AND IF THEY HAVE EGGS, GET 6." A SHORT TIME LATER THE HUSBAND RETURNS HOME WITH 6 CARTONS OF MILK. THE WIFE ASKED HIM, "WHY DID YOU BUY 6 GALLONS OF MILK?" HE REPLIED, "THEY HAD EGGS."

THE PREACHER WAS WIRED FOR SOUND WITH A LAPEL MIC, AND AS HE PREACHED, HE MOVED BRISKLY ABOUT THE PLATFORM, JERKING THE MIC CORD AS HE WENT. THEN HE MOVED TO ONE SIDE, GETTING WOUND UP IN THE CORD AND NEARLY TRIPPING BEFORE JERKING IT AGAIN. AFTER SEVERAL CIRCLES AND JERKS, A LITTLE GIRL IN THE THIRD PEW LEANED TOWARD HER MOTHER AND WHISPERED, "IF HE GETS LOOSE, WILL HE HURT US?"

## What's Coming?

Xtreme Kids and M & M's that's what! Beginning September 13, from 6:00-7:00 here at MBC kids are invited to be a part of weekly Bible study and fun. Come check it out. M & M's, for kids 4 years old through 2nd grade, will meet in the fellowship hall for

music, crafts, mission stories, and games. Xtreme Kids, 3rd grade through 6th grade, will meet in room 4. They will begin a new adventure from Answers in Genesis. They will explore questions about the Bible, the earth, creation, evolution, dinosaurs, etc. to help them see how the Bible relates to

all of life, and how biblical history helps explain the world in which they live today. Invite your friends and neighbors and come join us as we set out on this quest together. See you soon!

Lori Henry

Director of Children's Ministries

## Caught In The Act continued...

are encouraged to be a servant of God and people. **That is the pragmatic expression of 'The Pursuit of Excellence.' Serving God and others is the will and work of God.**

There is urgency with God's call upon us. We must do the will of God while we have opportunity; the night is approaching when our opportunities for working in God's harvest fields will be over.

After all, it's God's approval we seek. Intellectual Theology has no chance of God's approval unless it's inextricably connected to our ethical actions and moral

conduct.

Our walk with Jesus should challenge and inspire other Christians to be more faithful and authentic. I pray that it does.

While you still have opportunity; I encourage each of you to be busy serving in God's kingdom. Imagine how blessed you will be when you are 'caught in the act' of doing the will and the work of God upon Christ's return to call you home!

Thank you for going fishing with me, I have enjoyed your company. Now that you have listened to me as I went 'fishing' in the well stocked pond called 'The history of our church family,' I pray you'll join with us and establish a 'Fishing pond of memories' all

your own right here at MBC.

I want to encourage you to be faithfully involved; especially in the areas of your gifts, interests and abilities. We need you and Christ deserves you.

Your Pastor, Marv

## Can Food Drive Builds

Have you ever built something from building blocks? How about legos? The youth group at Mountain Bible Church chose a summer activity this year that would benefit local food pantries.

Thinking 'outside the box' they turned the food drive in to a challenge by not just asking for donations of canned food, but asking for sculptures to be made from the cans. Maybe a rocket built out of cans, an American flag, or tacos (cans of corn [the yellow label representing the taco shell] that surround cans of baked beans [brown label for taco meat], green beans

[lettuce], and tomatoes). Can you picture it?

Local service organizations, businesses, schools and residents were invited to participate. Country Real Estate, Debbie's Fabrics, Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority International, Feed My Sheep, Mountain Garden Nursery, Painter Jim Walsh, Mountain Bible Church's Missions Team, and its Youth group all participated in this year's build. Visitors to the Food Drive booth at Tehachapi's Farmer's Market stopped by to view the final entries. Some of those visitors brought canned food donations. Visitors were encouraged to 'vote' for their

favorite sculpture with pocket change. This year's winning entry was from Feed My Sheep. They did a great job, and received the most 'votes.'

The cans donated will be divided between the Salvation Army, Jesus Shack's Street Teams here in Tehachapi, and Mountain Bible Church's food pantry. Next year we hope to have even more participants. Mountain Bible Church thanks everyone who donated cans of food for our local food pantries.

A LITTLE BOY OPENED THE BIG AND OLD FAMILY BIBLE WITH FASCINATION, LOOKING AT THE OLD PAGES AS HE TURNED THEM. THEN SOMETHING FELL OUT OF THE BIBLE. HE PICKED IT UP AND LOOKED AT IT CLOSELY. IT WAS AN OLD LEAF FROM A TREE THAT HAS BEEN PRESSED IN BETWEEN THE PAGES. "MAMA, LOOK WHAT I FOUND," THE BOY CALLED OUT. "WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE, DEAR?" HIS MOTHER ASKED. WITH ASTONISHMENT IN THE YOUNG BOY'S VOICE HE ANSWERED, "IT'S ADAM 'S SUIT".



American Flag



Mountain Garden Nursery



Feed My Sheep



Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority International-Quilt



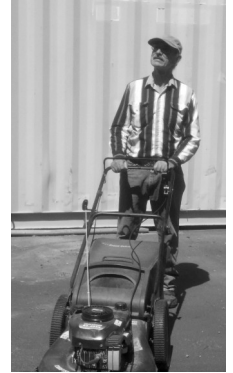
Octopus

# The Messenger

## Work Day At Mountain Bible Church

ONE SUNDAY IN A MIDWEST CITY, A YOUNG CHILD WAS "ACTING UP" DURING THE MORNING WORSHIP HOUR. THE PARENTS DID THEIR BEST TO MAINTAIN SOME SENSE OF ORDER IN THE PEW BUT WERE LOSING THE BATTLE. FINALLY, THE FATHER PICKED THE LITTLE FELLOW UP AND WALKED STERNLY UP THE AISLE ON HIS WAY OUT. JUST BEFORE REACHING THE SAFETY OF THE FOYER, THE LITTLE ONE CALLED LOUDLY TO THE CONGREGATION, "PRAY FOR ME! PRAY FOR ME!"

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Work Day July 30th. Many of the items that needed to be painted, fixed, moved, or cleaned were done. It is nice to have so many hands helping to keep our church looking good.



CHARLES WHITE



BRIAN ROSE



DAVE LAWRENCE

### FRIED CHICKEN

OUR TEACHER ASKED US WHAT OUR FAVORITE ANIMAL WAS, AND I SAID, "FRIED CHICKEN." SHE SAID I WASN'T FUNNY, BUT SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN RIGHT, BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE IN THE CLASS LAUGHED. MY PARENTS TOLD ME TO ALWAYS BE TRUTHFUL AND HONEST, AND I AM. FRIED CHICKEN IS MY FAVORITE ANIMAL.

I TOLD MY DAD WHAT HAPPENED, AND HE SAID MY TEACHER WAS PROBABLY A MEMBER OF PETA. HE SAID THEY LOVE ANIMALS VERY MUCH. I DO, TOO. ESPECIALLY CHICKEN, PORK AND BEEF.

ANYWAY, MY TEACHER SENT ME TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE. I TOLD HIM WHAT HAPPENED, AND HE LAUGHED, TOO. THEN HE TOLD ME NOT TO DO IT AGAIN.

THE NEXT DAY IN CLASS MY TEACHER ASKED ME WHAT MY FAVORITE LIVE ANIMAL WAS. I TOLD HER IT WAS CHICKEN. SHE ASKED ME WHY, JUST LIKE SHE'D ASKED THE OTHER CHILDREN. SO I TOLD HER IT WAS BECAUSE YOU COULD MAKE THEM INTO FRIED CHICKEN. SHE SENT ME BACK TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE AGAIN. HE LAUGHED, AND TOLD ME NOT TO DO IT AGAIN.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. MY PARENTS TAUGHT ME TO BE HONEST, BUT MY TEACHER DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN I AM. TODAY, MY TEACHER ASKED US TO TELL HER WHAT FAMOUS PERSON WE ADMIRE MOST. I TOLD HER, "COLONEL SANDERS."

GUESS WHERE I AM NOW...



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## Top Ten Signs You're Not Reading Your Bible Enough

- 10.) The preacher announces the sermon is from Genesis and you check the table of contents.
- 9.) You think Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob may have had a few hit songs during the '60s.
- 8.) You open to Psalms and a WWII savings bond falls out.
- 7.) When asked, you say that your favorite Old Testament patriarch is Hercules.
- 6.) Your favorite Bible verse is, "Cleanliness is next to godliness."
- 5.) You become frustrated because Charlton Heston isn't listed in either the concordance or the table of contents.
- 4.) Catching the kids reading the Song of Solomon, you demand: "Who gave you this stuff?"
- 3.) You think the Minor Prophets worked in the quarries.
- 2.) You keep falling for it every time when the preacher tells you to turn to First Hezekiah.

And the number one sign you may not be reading your Bible enough:

- 1.) The kids keep asking too many questions about your usual bedtime story: "Jonah the Shepherd Boy and His Ark of Many Colors."

*"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" -2 Timothy 2:15*

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## For Help and Answers

Call the church office-----822-7541  
Crisis Prayer requests-----Call Christine, 822-8849  
Change address or phone-----822-7541  
Doctrinal questions-----822-7541  
Wedding questions-----822-7541

Hospital visits-----822-7541  
Counseling Information-----822-7541  
Child dedication Service-----822-7541  
Student Ministries (Junior High to College)-----822-7541  
Membership/Baptism-----822-7541

MEN GIVE UP FAR MORE THAN WOMEN AS A SENIOR AT ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY IN MINNESOTA, I OFTEN ENGAGE WOMEN PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS IN HEATED DISCUSSIONS ABOUT MALE-FEMALE RELATIONSHIPS. ONCE, MY FRIEND SHELLY AND I GOT INTO A HOT DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER MEN OR WOMEN MAKE THE LARGER SACRIFICE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GENDER CHARACTERISTICS WHEN THEY GET MARRIED. TO MY SURPRISE, SHELLY AGREED WITH ME THAT MEN GIVE UP FAR MORE THAN WOMEN. "YOU'RE RIGHT, STEVE," SHE SAID. "MEN GENERALLY GIVE UP DOING THEIR CLEANING, THEIR COOKING, THEIR GROCERY SHOPPING, THEIR LAUNDRY."

*The Messenger of Mountain Bible Church*

*Office Manager and Editor:* Donna Eastham

*Contributing Writers:* Lori Henry, Dr. Sam Conklin, and Pastor Slifer.

*Distribution:* Neya Kuithe

*Sunday Morning Services at Mountain Bible Church:* 8:30 and 10:30

*Children's Programs are available at the same times.*

*Infant care* (0-2 years) is available in the nursery.

*Senior Pastor:* Dr. Marvin D. Slifer

*Children's Ministries Director:* Lori Henry

*Youth Ministries Director:* Christy Boyd

*Human Resource Director:* Christy Boyd

*Trustees for 2011:* Dennis Birks, Robert Garcia, Paul Smith, Michael White, and Ron Williams.

*Elders for 2011:* Dennis Collins, Sam Conklin, Ed Dunlap, Dae Lantz, Dave Lawrence, and Andy Ohmit.

*The Messenger* is published monthly. All submissions to *The Messenger* are due the twentieth (20th) of each month. We would like contributions of news articles, photos and other information from the Youth Group, Men's and Ladies Bible Studies, Missions Team, Let's Eat Cafe, Energizers and Praise Team. Please remember to put your name on the article so we can give proper credit.

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