

The Messenger



MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Volume 31 Issue 7

July 2018

Connections Make All the Difference! Learn 'who' you are by connecting with 'whose' you are!

"All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised.⁽⁴⁰⁾ *"For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us"* Hebrews 11:39-40 (NLT)

If you are seeking to live as an authentic Christian you've already discovered you don't fit in the pattern of the world around you. A "Must Read" for you is Hebrews 11: esp. verses 13-40

People who feel like misfits (Especially Christians) will benefit significantly to discover they are not alone in their struggles.

In Hebrews chapter eleven, you'll read about so many of the heroes of our faith who didn't fit into the pattern of their world either. These believers suffered bullying to the extreme. Some were even put to death for daring to be different for the sake of obeying God rather than man. God said the world was not worthy of such courageous people. Instead of placing their values on the temporal

things of this world, their eyes were seeing the eternal dwelling place. There's measure of comfort in that what you're going through isn't new. Stand firm in your faith and God may say about you, that the world wasn't worthy of you either?

Make a choice to live for the honor and glory of God and not to be honored and glorified yourself. You will find so much more happiness and joy and peace when you live as the Christian you are, instead of living to be accepted by your peers.

Hans Christian Anderson wrote an amazing fairy tale that covers what you and I experience living as sojourners in this world. Our home is in heaven with our creator. "This



world is not my home, I'm just passing through" Line from a song.

Sometimes you can't know who you are until

you know to whom you belong to. Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tale of the ugly duckling illustrates just such a dilemma. I'm certain you all remember the tale but I want to include this brief reminder. This overview is mostly copied from Wikipedia: with a few changes. This tale is written to tell a special person's "Life Story"

"The Ugly Duckling" starts by focusing our attention on a mother duck's nest of eggs that just hatched. One of the little hatchlings was perceived by the other ducks and animals on the farm, as homely. He suffered continual verbal and physical abuse from them. He wanders sadly from the barnyard and lives with wild ducks and geese until he finds a home with a compassionate older woman.

The "duckling" sees a flock of migrating wild swans which delights and excites him, but he cannot join them, for he is too young and cannot fly. When winter arrives, a farmer finds him and carries the freezing little "duckling" home, but he is frightened by the farmer's noisy children and flees the house. He spends a miserable



winter alone in the outdoors, mostly hiding in a cave by a partly frozen lake. When spring arrives, a flock of swans descends on the lake.

The “duckling” had grown and become mature and strong. He decides he is unable to endure a life of solitude and hardship anymore. He decided to throw himself at the flock of swans, deciding that it is better to be killed by such beautiful birds than to live a life of ugliness and misery. He is shocked when the swans welcome and accept him, only to realize by looking at his reflection



in the water that he has grown into one of them! The flock takes to the air, and now our beautiful swan spreads his gorgeous large wings and takes flight with the rest of his new found “family.”

NOW; for the rest of the story: “Anderson later confessed that the story was a “reflection of my own life”, and, when the critic Georg Brandes questioned Anderson about whether he would write his autobiography, the poet claimed that it had al-

ready been written—”The Ugly Duckling” The “Ugly Duckling” was first published November 11, 1843, by Anderson in Copenhagen, Denmark to great critical acclaim.

A most important connection for Christians is in Ephesians 1:23

“And God put everything under Christ’s feet and appointed , Him as head over everything for the church (23) which is his body, the fullness of the One who fills all things in every way.” Ephesians 1:22-23 (HCSB). The Today’s English Version has a good interpretation of this verse. *“The church is Christ’ body, the completion of him who completes all things everywhere” Ephesians 1:23 (TEV).*

This image of a Coptic Cross dates back to the 2nd century. This is how a Coptic monk illustrated this teaching of Christ being the head and the church as His body! The people of the “Cross” are the body of Christ.



Because “fills” in Eph. 1:23 is in the middle voice, the movement of the verb (filling) can legitimately

move toward the subject which is the Church, or to the object of the sentence which is Christ. Both are true in this case. Thus, the Passive voice reads: “Christ completes and fills the church; and the Middle reads “The Church completes and fills Christ. The 1st is easily understood; the 2nd is a marvel only God can accomplish!

This amazes me! The Perfect Christ’s work is completed and fulfilled by such imperfect people, such as you and me! I want to put a question mark after that last sentence instead of an exclamation mark; God are you sure Christ’s work is completed and fulfilled by imperfect Christians.

How does God connect sinful man to a perfect God and his perfect heaven?

Since NO sin is allowed to enter heaven, how is it that so many sinners get into heaven? Of course, Christ knew we would ask that very question, so He included the precise explanation. Listen to these holy Words as God answers us. *“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ” 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)*

Of all the possible connections in life, don’t miss the most important one of all. Without connecting to God through Jesus Christ; you will have a void deep

within your soul. You were made to be connected to your Creator!

I pray that you have a great July! Know for certain that you are loved and appreciated and that your participation in our church fellowship is noticed and of great value to all of us.

Your Pastor, Marv

A teacher asked her student where his homework assignment was. He cheerfully replied that it was stored in his pencil. So does he get credit for not letting the dog eat it?

God's Will For My Life by Pastor Frost

"What is God's will for my life?" Have you ever asked this question regarding a specific situation in your life? We should get used to thinking of God's will in terms of two categories: God's "secret will" and his "revealed will". We are only accountable for knowing God's revealed will. Deut. 29:29 states it this way "The Lord our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions." The revealed things are our business, but the secret things are none of our business. The believer is assigned responsibility to spend much time and energy discovering what God has revealed in His Word, but the "secret things" belong to the Lord. Simply put: if you own a Bible in your language, you are responsible for learning it!

Much material about knowing God's will, while well meaning, is not helpful. The great weakness is to fail to focus on what is plainly revealed in the Bible, and to focus instead on God's unrevealed will. God simply hasn't

told us everything and the Bible doesn't answer all of our questions. Think of it this way: everything in the Bible is true, but not all truth is in the Bible. This certainly is not a deficiency in the Word of God because God is wise when he reveals knowledge, and when he conceals it. He reveals his will to us in accordance with what we need. To know how to live a godly life, and conceals his will on the occasions we wouldn't understand if he told us anyway. What God has revealed in the Scriptures is completely sufficient for living the Christian life, and we are only accountable for our wisdom in living out what we learn from them. We must read the Bible, study it, memorize it, apply it, and pass it's truth to faithful men and women who will be able to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:1-2).

Let's summarize the two categories of God's will: First, part of God's will is unknowable. Romans 11:33-36 "Oh how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his

ways! For who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back? For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen."

Second, God's will is knowable. Sound like a contradiction? It's not when we recognize the two categories of responsibility assigned to each. We are to seek a complete knowledge of God's revealed will. Colossians 1:9 "So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding." God's will is first incomprehensible because it is infinite; God's will is knowable because He chose to reveal himself in His word.

In the serenity prayer, God is asked to give us the courage to change the things we can, the serenity to accept the things we can't change and the wisdom to know the difference. In essence, the prayer is a request to be able

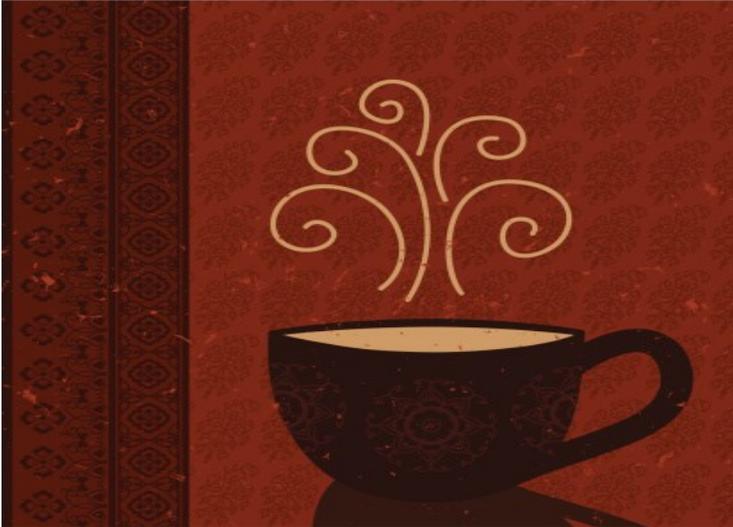
to decipher between God's "secret things" and His "revealed things". The result of trying to understand God's unrevealed will leads to anxiety, stress, and co-dependency. Christian maturity is a growing understanding of the difference between what we are responsible for, and what we are not. We don't always know the difference and so we rely on God's guidance through prayer and patience. Remember James says, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him (James 1:5)

It is my strong desire that these words and thoughts will bring clarity as you search for God's will as you study his Word.

Pastor, Chris

One of our teachers, Marilyn Berg has this story. One day after being bombarded with "Ms. Berg?", "Ms. Berg?", "Ms. Berg?", she asked the students for just 5 minutes without anyone saying "Ms. Berg"?!. The classroom got quiet. Then from the back, a soft voice said "Umm..Marilyn?".

A Cup of Joe with Bob



Have you noticed that the goodness in some things, no matter how satisfying it is to you, just gets taken for granted? Perhaps even placed on the back burner, with yesterday's coffee. We are all guilty of this at times. Perhaps because some things are expected and accepted to be, of good value.

Let's consider a good, warm (or Hot!) cup of coffee. We seem to be able to get one at anytime we want and at so many places: our home,

specialty coffee shops, cafes and even at our church. A warm cup is a good way to start your day (even more so when it's cold out side!). I prefer mine in a mug and I have several favorites. A mug seems to even warm my hands which can be a good side effect.

The cost of coffee can be reasonable, especially when you consider it's benefits. At the least you can share a good conversation with others or even with yourself :)

Thinking about this subject of appreciation for a little thing, reminds me of more import things we have to be thankful for. How about our Pastor and friend, Pastor Slifer. He too is always available. You can share a very good conversation with him and about anything. Being

around Pastor Marv is a great way to start your day. While coffee may give you a temporary lift, the lessons, advice and prayers from Pastor Marv will lift you up and stay with you a long , long time.

As this is a year of dramatic changes for our congregation, we must not neglect to speak up and show our admiration and appreciation for our Pastor. Perhaps sharing a cup of joe and a conversation with Pastor Marv would be the just the right thing to do?

Our Family Photo Album



More Family Pictures



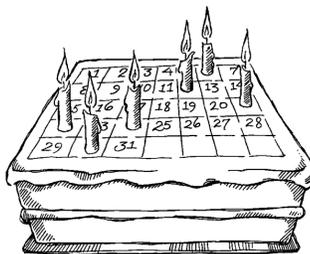
Volume 31 Issue 7

Birthdays in July

<u>Name</u>	<u>Day</u>				
Matthew Shelikh	1	Kristen Burgeis	15	Mike Mosher	30
Vivian Debord	2	Brenda Lovenguith	16	Eileen White	31
Brian Domingo	2	Marybelle Gassaway	16		
Linda Harris	3	Ashley Ohmit	17		
Davin Domingo	4	P.J. Mata	18		
Bob Mayberry	5	Celeste Reyes	20		
Madison Burgeis	5	Lori Henry	21		
Jaret Boston	5	Kristen Achziger	22		
Tyler Domingo	6	Zack Bowen	22		
Carol Weston	7	Jeremiah Annonson	25		
Phillip Gillies	11	Nicholas Boston	25		
Andrew Boyd	14	Joscelyn Rivers	26		
Lila Winger	15	Michael White	28		

Anniversaries in July

Martha & Clarence Ring	7-2-51
Ilona & George Eubanks	7-10-71
Marge & Ron Williams	7-11-59
Linda & Ton Lichenwaldt	7-19-80
Carol & Don Shy	7-20-80
Ashley & Tommy Ohmit	7-27-06
Eileen & Charles White	7-29-90
Therese & Mike Pridgen	7-30-05
Cappy & Steve Stephens	7-30-45



Birthdays & Anniversaries

For Help and Answers

Call the church office-----822-7541
Crisis Prayer requests-----Call Carol, 822-5479
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

The Messenger of Mountain Bible Church

Office Manager and Editor: Bob Winger

Contributing Writers: Pastor Slifer,

Distribution: Neya Kuithe

Sunday Morning Services at Mountain Bible Church: 10:00am

Children's Programs are available at the same times.

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

Associate Pastor: James C. Frost

Senior Pastor: Dr. Marvin D. Slifer

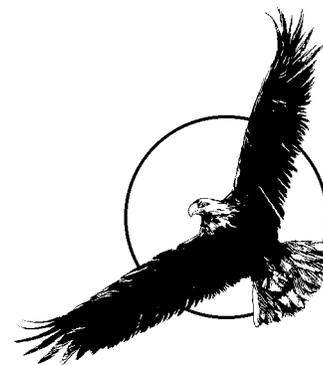
Trustees for 2018: Bruce Crespo, Chris Boston, John Gusbeth, Jerry Harris, Michael Hurrell, Ed Weston

Elders for 2018: Dennis Collins, Sam Conklin, Ed Dunlap, Dave Lawrence, and Chuck Reuter

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.

The Messenger is published by:

Mountain Bible Church 630 Maple Street Tehachapi, CA 93561 661-822-7541



MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

630 Maple Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Phone: 661-822-7541

Fax: 661-822-8557

www.mountainbiblechurch.org

E-mail: info@mountainbiblechurch.org

