

The Messenger of Mountain Bible Church

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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

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, Andy Ohmit, 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.

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The Messenger



MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

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Being a Leader is Not for the Faint of Heart

Beginning a new year is a great time to refocus and realign our lives. Back when I was able to play golf, Golf Club manufacturers kept inventing clubs that would send your golf ball farther and farther. As great as that sounds, consider this, if you were driving a ball an average of 200 yards, your ball could be flying 10% off center and in most fairways, it would land in bounds. If your distance increased to, two hundred and fifty yards at 10% off center, your ball will almost always land out of bounds, with its corresponding penalties.

Lives are much the same. The more you're seeking to achieve; the greater the need for you to make sure you're moving in the center of your intended goals. Disappointments and criticisms often leave us

discouraged to the point of not realizing our lives have taken a new and devastating direction. Even a small variation can cause us to land out-of-bounds. The Apostle Paul felt the need for this same resolve and re-evaluation.

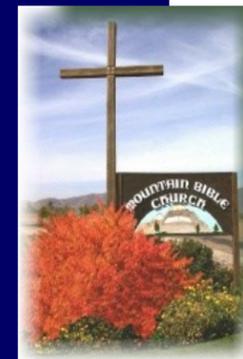
“But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” 1 Corinthians 9:27

About two years ago I noticed a post on face book that stressed the oxymora leaders continually face. The article was meant to remind all of us that leadership comes with a price. Do you have the courage to face the contradictory and illogical assaults that will come your way

if you lead? To be a leader is usually a conscious choice. He was really asking them to decide; “Are you willing to endure the pain for the prize of the gain?”

These ten principles were first articulated by Kent Keith as a student at Harvard in the 1960s and published in 1968. Unbeknownst to him, these have been quoted, circulated, and appropriated by countless people around the world and back again. They even served as a source of inspiration for Mother Teresa. Now, here are his paradoxical commandments.

1. People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. **Forgive them anyway.**
2. If you are kind, (Good to people), people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. **Be kind and good anyway.**
3. If you are successful,



Being a Leader cont.

you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. **Succeed anyway.**

4. If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. **Be honest and sincere anyway.**

5. What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. **Create and build anyway.**

6. If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. **Be happy anyway.**

7. The good you do today, will often be forgotten. **Do good anyway.**

8. Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. **Give your best anyway.**

9. The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. **Think big anyway.**

10. People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. **Help people anyway.**

11. People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. **Fight for a few underdogs anyway.**

12. In the final analysis, **it is between you and God.** It was never between you and them anyway!

The Original Version:
The Paradoxical Commandments © 1968, 2001 Kent M. Keith

To pursue excellence is to lead, as such we must learn to conquer the fears and contradictions inherent with leadership! The good news is that God identified each one of these hurdles of life and offered help. The demands of people can be outlandish; so, God made it simple. He reminds us that we are serving Him and not our critics!

Christ certainly knew the hurdles in front of leaders and all who decide to pursue excellence in their life. He faced all of the trials and tests we have; times ten! He obviously knew we would fail many times because he made provisions for our failings. Continually, Christ reminded us that He is on our team.

“My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the Righteous One. ⁽²⁾ He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.” 1 John 2:1-2 (HCSB)

There’s a verse hidden among the Minor Prophets in the book of Micah that recapitulates God’s expectations of our conduct as leaders. Read it again and see how many issues of life are addressed with these three directives.

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

MBC’s office motto of is, “The Pursuit of Excellence.” That’s not to be confused with the

pursuit of perfection. We should always do the best we can taking into account the situations and circumstances we are working with.

Let’s get re-motivated for 2018. There are people lost, without hope and controlled by their sin who need us to be conquerors of our fears and steadfast in the face of our critics.

There is only one true and living God and He has given us the privilege of serving Him by being His “Ambassadors” to a lost and dying world. Let’s grab this calling, “With both hands” knowing we are honoring God when we do.

Pray you all have a blessed January and New Year!

Pastor Marv.



First, plant five rows of peas:

- Presence**
- Promptness**
- Preparation**
- Purity**
- Perseverance**

Next to these plant three rows of squash:

- Squash gossip**
- Squash criticism**
- Squash indifference**

No garden is complete without turnips:

- Turn up for the meetings**
- Turn up with a smile**
- Turn up with new ideas**
- Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.**



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

Promises For the New Year

This year why not make some promises rather than resolutions for the new year? The following list should get you started.

Promise to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

Promise to make all your friends feel that there is some-

thing special about them.

Promise to look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

Promise to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

Promise to forgive the mistakes of the past and press on to

greater achievements in the future.

Promise to wear a cheerful expression at all times and to give every person you meet a smile.

Promise to give so much effort to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

Promise to live for Christ and trust God with a strong faith.



A CUP OF JOE WITH BOB

Has this ever happened to you? You step into the shower expecting a relaxing experience when suddenly you realize you are not alone. There is a (HUGE) spider walking along the floor, right next to your left foot. After you let out a weak scream (in my case), your sense of survival kicks in and you flush the spider down the drain. You just overcame your fear, good for you.

Fear is not a friendly word. It takes us out of our comfort zone. In the Bible we read passages about the 'fear' is really just having respect for God...His majesty, holiness, creativity and His will (or plans for us), are just some of the reasons for this respect, in our prayer life, our relationships with others and in our contributions to our home church.

We as a church family have set a

goal of welcoming a new associate pastor. This effort may seem a little scary to some of us. I have tried to search out what is God's Will for this goal of ours. I do believe that God wants his Church to have congregations that are strong, active, and determined disciples of God's Word, within the church walls and the community. Therefore I am not afraid and I totally support this goal of a new ad-



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dition to our leadership staff.

I encourage everyone to pray and speak with our church leadership, as they are working very hard for our congregation. A kind word can be wonderful support.

In closing, aren't you glad that spiders do not have wings!

Special Events

Here are a couple things you may have missed last month here at Mountain Bible Church. God has blessed this church with many Great cooks and on December 10th they did it again. Thank you to Janet and Paul Smith along with all their helpers for putting a great meal together for our Annual Business / Christmas dinner. Not only is God pleased with our kids when they are servants of God during events like this, the hours they work are tracked to help them with camp in the summer. Thank you all for another great job with setup, service, and clean up. Our quarterly "Food and Fun Day" on December 17th fol-

lowing the Children's Christmas Program was a hit with Mexican food and fun games put together by Bethany and Michael Gusbeth Rickheim. They did a great job with games that had goofy and awesome prizes. I think the best prize was the shirt with Marvin and Diane on it. Thank you to everyone that helped put this event together or just came to eat and play. God is good.

Cheryl Gusbeth
Events Coordinator



If You Can

If you can start the day without caffeine,

If you can get going without pep pills,

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,

If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment;

If you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him,

If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without liquor,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

Then You Are Probably The Family Dog!



Kerins Corner

To The Teen Tribe(Middle School and High School) It is a new year, and many of us use this time to reflect on

the past and make a new plan for the future, often including a “New Years Resolution.” Most of us that make such a resolution start out strong, but very quickly our resolutions often dissolve instead of resolve. Often a church leader or friend can be the support you need to help you move forward and resolve your “New Year’s Resolution.” The one friend you can always count on is Jesus. He gets you! Let’s RESOLVE not DISSOLVE this year!

October, of course, was dominated by THE PUMPKIN PATCH & Harvest Party!



I can’t thank our congregation enough for all the hard work that went into that project. The event was a financial and emotional success as we bound together as a team and put a kind face on our church to our community.

There were so many in our congregation who gave meaningful help, and I feel certain that I could write pages and pages about the ways that is true, THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HELPED! There were a few of you who helped so much, that I want to thank you, again..... Bob Garcia, Sally Periman-Lawrence, Cheryl Gusbeth, Neya Kuithe, and “Farmer

Bob” Winger, THANKS! Jerry Harris thanks for your endless loops around the field in our



John Deere; Yvonne Dunlap, you stood in our kitchen and made 2000 bags of popcorn, all with a smile on your face and stepped in whenever you saw a need; Marcie Hurrell, you stood in the cold day-after-day and got so good at running the patch, I got to leave for an entire day; Bruce Crespo, thanks for your brilliant problem solving and work to completion; Chuck Reuter, you showed me why Boy Scouts matter as you acted endlessly to “do a good turn daily” in our patch, your actions

added up to a whole lot of difference; and Dennis Collins there is no set of words to explain how you became our patch fix-it-all handyman, MBC pumpkin patch just wouldn’t have happened without your daily concern and work from before the first pumpkin arrived until after the last one rotted in the field!

In November, we had THE BOWLING TRIP! Bruce and Lorri Crespo, what kind humans you are! Our kids from 1st through 12th grade enjoyed their chance to BOWL together! Bruce, you are quite the bowler and Lorri, you were a wonderful hostess, with pizza and drinks in the park after we rolled our last ball. I can’t believe you got 18 of us to Lancaster!

Cont.

THANKS!



December brought us to the CHRISTMAS PARADE and THE CHRISTMAS PLAY!

Thanks to Cheryl Gusbeth for



getting our MBC float in the Tehachapi Christmas Parade on December 2nd, and getting the kids all costumed and getting that wonderful pony to walk with Mary and Joseph

(Danny and Selena Smith)! Our Angel (Daniella Ferry) looked great, too!

Sunday, December 17th was our Annual Children’s Christmas Play, during Sunday Morning Church Service. What fun we had! Thanks to all the cast and crew!

THE DIAPERED DARLINGS (Age 6 weeks- 2 years)

HELP! We need 7 ladies over the age of 21 to volunteer about 4 hours of your time, 2 hours on 2 Sundays, every three months.

THE WHIRLING WONDERS

(Age 3 – Kinder, Sundays after singing, classroom in the children’s hallway of the fellowship hall). Thanks to all the teachers who have helped in this room this year! Anna Cardiel, Yvonne Dunlap,

Ilona Eubanks, Sara Ferry, Neya Kuithe, Becky Mason, Patty Mosher, and Debbie Schmidt. You are showing Christian love to the children of our congregation and our community! Thank You.



THE MIRACULOUS MARVELS (1st – 5th Grade, Sundays after Singing, Room 4)

The quality of teaching in Sunday School for this age-group has always been very good, and it is getting even better! Thank You to our teachers: Marilyn Berg, Tom & Marlene Capron, Bruce & Lorri Crespo, Lori Henry, Sue Morrison, and Carol Weston, as well as thanks

to our two teen helpers: Zack Bowen and Dylan Shelikh.

THURSDAY! THURSDAY! (2nd through 12th Grade)

Thank You to Marilyn Berg, Carol Weston, Michael Hurrell, Cheryl Gusbeth, Michael and Bethany Gusbeth-Rickheim for making Thursdays happen. There will be **NO THURSDAY meeting on Thursday, December 28, 2017**, but we will see you all back on January 4, 2018. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Looking Forward! Your MBC Children’s Ministry Director,

Mrs. Kerin Bowen