

The Vistoso Voice

Friday, September 18, 2020

Weekly

SPECIAL MISSIONARY PRAYER REQUESTS

It's easy to overlook the fact that missionaries in the field, in addition to the work God has called them to, have to deal with the same everyday problems and stresses as we do at home. This recent communication from Paul and Hope Towne, missionaries we support as they work with the Wycliffe translators in Mexico, effectively demonstrates this point.

Dear VCC Family, We have a prayer request that's heavy on our hearts right now, a very pressing and painful personal extended family need. We can trust that God knows the details and the solution.

For other prayer requests:

- We have had difficulty with the electric company over billing the Mexico Branch of SIL. We can use prayer that we can get the money returned without having to deactivate the bimonthly auto-debit on the 36 meters because paying each individually by transfer would take hours.
- Perhaps the most important prayer request is for a Mitla center administrator. Our current administrator is leaving in less than two weeks. Wade ten Bensel will take over until December. At that point, I don't know who will do it. It's a pretty tough job with a lot on that person's shoulders. There hasn't been a permanent person in the position since we got here in January 2019. The current plan is to give more responsibility to the head worker, Miguel Angel Garcia Olivera, so he could use prayer for the transition and the new weight of responsibility.

Also continue to pray for Paul and Hope's health. After a long bout with what may have been COVID-19, they are now practically free of chest pains and have been able to return to their duties full time.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

VCC's livestream programming has provided much material that can be used for personal ministry. Many of the recorded programs are now available through our website and we will be working this fall to organize the materials so that you and your family and friends can more easily access them.

Further, many of those programs are being translated into written form so that you will have books to distribute. Be on the lookout this fall for two new books in the Hebrews series and several books based upon Kevin's livestream series: *The Christian Life—Starting with the Basics*.



SOCIAL DISTANCING IN EFFECT FOR NEW MINISTRIES

VCC plans to add ministries to our schedule as we can do so safely, but the safety really depends upon you. This week the Men's Bible Study begins again in the Fellowship Hall and the COVID Version of the Men's and Women's Bible Studies kicks off the first Tuesday in October.

The seating in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall is set to enable social distancing, but you need

to avoid queuing up while entering and exiting. You also need to be sure that you are not sitting with someone who does not live in your household.

Although we are not requiring masks, they are recommended, if only for the fact that the wearing of masks makes many of our congregation feel more comfortable attending our services and Bible studies.



Vistoso Community Church

Telephone: 520 825-0652
e-mail: vistosocc@icloud.com
website: vistoso.org
Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday:
10 am-2 pm;
Friday: 8 am-12 noon

Pastor: Kevin Redig
Emergency: 520-403-4088

Ministries

THE LORD HAS BEEN GOING BEFORE VCC

***And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you.
He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you;
do not fear nor be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8***

Although virtually no one was predicting a worldwide pandemic at the end of 2018, the Lord was already preparing VCC to meet that challenge. It started with a man who attended our 2018 Christmas cantata. He was so impressed with the church sharing that wonderful program with the community, that, although not a member, he made a large donation designated for VCC's music and AV programs.

When the decision was made to use that donation to upgrade the sound room equipment with cameras and microphones needed to enable livestreaming our concerts and services, the Board voted to add funds to complete the project over time. In the end the costs were shared between that generous gift and church funds. Our intent in the spring of 2019 was to make our programs and services available to our members who could not attend, but God had much bigger plans.

The project required the crew to learn all sorts of new skills—working the cameras, managing the sound board to both support the broadcast and the in-church service, troubleshooting and maintaining numerous pieces of new equipment. But, the Lord was working on that as well—providing just the resources we needed when we needed them.



By April of 2019, the first miracle occurred. With a few Sunday services under their belt, the sound room crew was able to successfully livestream the VCC choir's Easter Cantata. In addition to the 600 people who were thrilled

by that presentation at the church, countless more joined in online.

Fast forward one year, VCC had been successfully livestreaming Sunday services and the Christmas cantata when COVID-19 hit. That is when we realized that God was continuing to go before us. He had prepared the way for us to continue spreading the word of God without so much as one day's interruption. The church closed its doors Sunday, March 8. On Monday, March 9, our Pastors began livestreaming Bible studies that were broadcast every weekday for the next 12 weeks.

Even now, as we are beginning to add some in-church programs and our livestream schedule has changed, livestream continues to be a vital part of VCC's ministry. And, God continues to go before us and we realize that our programs are going much further than just our congregation as we see literally hundreds of people tuning in each week from many parts of the country and as far away as Australia.

thisweek

Sunday, Sept. 20, 9:30 am:
Worship in the church and via livestream. No Q&A or fellowship. Social distancing practiced.

Wednesday, 10:00 am:
Midweek Bible Hour. Pastor Peter teaches livestream New Testament lessons.

Wednesday, 5:00 pm: VCC
Quarterly Business meeting.

Friday, 7:30 am: Men's Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.

10:00 am: Pastor Kevin's livestream Bible study series: *The Christian Life—Starting with the Basics.*

Meeting

Friday, Sept. 25, 11 am:
Scheduling Committee

nextweek

Sunday, Sept. 27, 9:30 am:
Worship in church and via livestream. No Q&A or fellowship following service.

Wednesday, 10:00 am:
Midweek Bible Hour, Pastor Peter teaches livestream New Testament lessons.

Friday, October 2, 7:30 am:
Men's Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.

Friday, October 2, 10:00 am:
Pastor Kevin's Bible study series: *The Christian Life—Starting with the Basics.*

Meeting

Saturday, October 3, 11:00 am:
Security Committee