

# The Vistoso Voice

Friday, November 20, 2020

## Weekly

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR NEEDY SENIORS

This Christmas, Vistoso Community Church is again partnering with Love Thy Neighbor Ministries in their **Blessings in a Bag** program to provide Christmas gifts for needy residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the Tucson area.



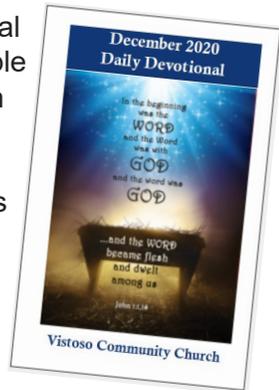
This year we can be a special blessing to these folks who are feeling particularly bored, lonely, and forgotten because of the isolation imposed by the pandemic.

You can bring some Christmas joy and the love of Jesus through your gift to a needy senior in nearby long-term care facilities. Just take a gift tag from the Christmas tree in the church foyer and follow the instructions on the tag.

To ensure that there is time to get the packages delivered in time for Christmas, gifts must be returned to the church **no later than Sunday, December 13**. Just put your filled bag back under the tree.

### DECEMBER DEVOTIONAL

The final devotional for 2020 is available beginning today in the basket in the church foyer or in the literature racks in the fellowship hall. Be sure you pick up your copy and consider taking a second copy for a relative or friend.

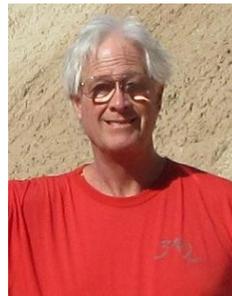


The daily devotionals will continue in 2021.

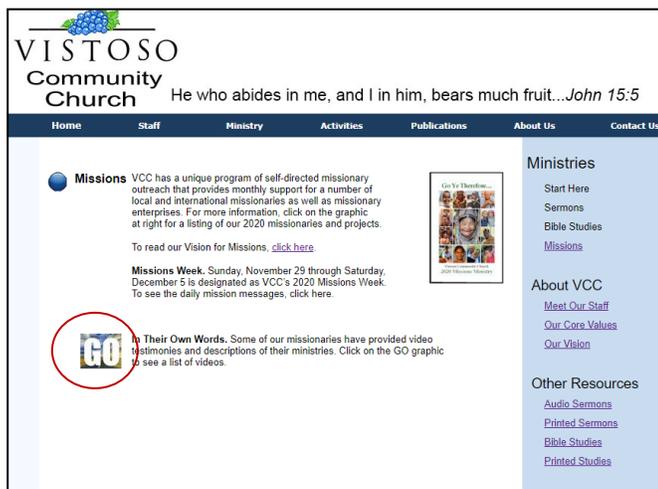
### NEW VIDEO ON OUR MISSIONS CHANNEL

The first iteration of our *Missions Information Channel* is up and running on our website (vistoso.org). Our first video last week was from our *Sent Missionary*.

This week, you are encouraged to listen to a very informative introduction from our newest missionary—Bill Penning. The Missions Committee just recently began to provide him with monthly support on your behalf, and have been enjoying the opportunity to get to know him before his return to the mission field in Brazil to provide technical support to Wycliffe Bible Translators.



To reach the new Missions page on our website, first, click on the GO button on the menu bar on the right side of our home page to display the Missions page. Then click the GO button again on the Missions Page to see the Penning video.



## thisweek

**Sunday, November 22, 9:00 and 11:00 am:** Thanksgiving worship services in church and streaming. Limited fellowship between services.

**Tuesday, 10:00 am:** Men's and Women's Bible Study in church and streaming.

**Wednesday, 10:00 am:** Midweek Bible Hour. Pastor Peter streams New Testament lessons.

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

**10:00 am:** No streaming Bible study on Friday.

### 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**



## From the Pastor's Desk

### COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME!

In his book *Dirty Old London*, author Lee Jackson paints a dreary picture of 1800s London:

*"It was the capital of the largest empire the world had ever know—and it was infamously filthy. It had choking, sooty fogs; the Thames River was thick with human sewage; and the streets were covered with horse dung..."*

Yet, in the fall of 1844, Pastor Henry Alford, was in his first charge in Wymeswold, a farming village north of London. His flock decided to have a fall festival to rejoice in the abundant harvest already gathered into their barns. For this occasion Pastor Alford wrote a song that we will sing this Sunday for our Thanksgiving service and that will be the title of my message Thanksgiving Sunday: *Come, Ye Thankful*

*People, Come.*

*Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest-home.*

*All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied:  
Come to God's own temple,  
come, raise the song  
of harvest-home.*

While Alford's first verse celebrates the harvest, his last stanza reminds us that, whatever our situation, earth is not our home.

*Even so, Lord, quickly come,  
Bring Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever, purified,  
In Thy garner to abide;  
Come with all Thine angels  
come, raise the glorious  
harvest home.*

What a wonderful contrast between dirty old London and the joy of the earthly and the heavenly harvest. What a joy for us in the midst of our dreary circumstance to know the goodness of the Lord both now and in the glorious future. Let us gather this Sunday taking heed to Alford's opening thought:



***Come, ye  
thankful people, come!***

In God's grace,

Peter Trankvik

### LIMITED FELLOWSHIP

We now have what has been named *limited fellowship* after the 9:00 and before the 11:00 service. What does that mean?

- It means that distanced space has been provided in the Fellowship Hall and on the west patio for chatting.
- It means that beverages like coffee and water are available and served by our Fellowship team.
- It means that because of COVID considerations, there is no food associated with this fellowship.
- It means that we are not gathering for our Q and A on the service, a feature of our pre-COVID worship that is sorely missed.

Limited fellowship means an opportunity and location to renew contacts with members of our church family and welcome visitors. It is not the same, but we are thankful nonetheless.

