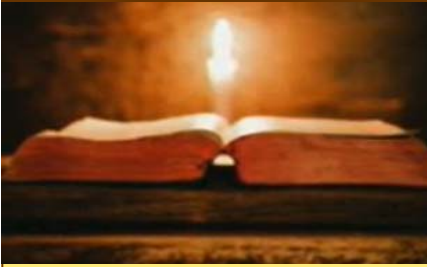


Vistoso Community Church Update: May 29, 2020



IN YOUR LIGHT, WE SEE LIGHT

Psalm 36:9

Livestream Schedule

NEW Sunday: VCC's Livestream Worship service moves to 9:30 am.

Sunday, June 7. VCC suspends Q&A time to ensure that those attending can exit with social distancing.

Monday-Friday: Livestream Bible Study, 10:00 am. The broadcast begins with music at 9:50 am.

Office Hours

The Church is open during normal office hours:

Tuesday-Thursday from 10 am-2 pm.

Friday from 10 am-12 noon.

Weekly Publications

Prayer list—Thursday
Update newsletter—Friday

For those with an e-mail address in the Church directory, these publications will be e-mailed to you. For those without e-mail, the publications will be available at the Church.

Also Available

Audio discs are available at the church for each of the Bible Studies and the Sunday service for those who do not have computers.

1200 E. Rancho Vistoso Blvd.,
Oro Valley, 85755
WEB: Vistoso.org

VCC REACHES OUT WITH GENEROSITY—AGAIN!

Friday, May 29, missionary John Coleman came to VCC with his van to collect VCC's amazing amount of clothing donations for the children of the Tohono O'Odham Reservation.



From the Pastor's Desk

TWO WAYS TO WORSHIP AT VCC

It is just over a week to go until we re-gather for the first time since March. I very much trust that as the result of the music, prayer, preaching of the Word, and the celebration of communion that our service on June 7 will be a time of blessing for all—no matter whether you are there in person or joining us via livestream. The fact that we will be worshipping in person and at home brings me to a passage I would like to share from the book of Romans:

Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. . . One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. . . Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But that man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith, and everything that does not come from faith is sin. Romans 14:4-7, 22-23

Continued on the next page.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In context, the believers in Rome were struggling over whether or not they should buy meat in the market place, which likely had been sacrificed to idols, and whether or not they should observe certain holy days. Paul is quite clearly making these a matter of liberty between each believer and the Lord.

How Does This Apply To Us?

Now why did I draw your attention to this passage? I want you to see that as a church family, we are facing a parallel situation. Some are more than ready to return to church. Others, for a variety of reasons, will not yet be ready. Let me take this passage in Romans and apply it to our situation:

- Joining us on June 7 or waiting until a later date is a matter between you and the Lord. You need to decide if joining us now or waiting is the more prudent thing for you to do—given your health and any number of other factors.
- If you need medical advice, ask your doctor or family for help. If you have spiritual questions, Peter or I would be glad to talk with you. But, when all is said and done, you need to simply turn your decision over to the Lord and rest in Him. It may take some mental labor, but that is what we do—*“labor to rest in the Lord”* and His promises.
- Whatever you decide, as your church family, we will support you. As the passage in Romans warns, we have no place judging another “servant of the Lord” in areas of liberty. This is so important to me because, after the separation we have endured these past months, it would be a tragedy to allow division of any kind into our fellowship.

Why Should We Be On Guard?

Now, perhaps you are thinking: “Is there a problem in our Church?” Not at all! But, we are in the midst of a very complex political, medical, and economic situation that has many spiritual overtones. Those who make up our church fellowship are going to have a range of opinions on those

topics—some of which are going to be quite strongly held. And, I am familiar with the methods of our chief adversary. He is always looking for the least crevice into which he can drive the wedge of division among the saints. The many issues facing our nation are important, but the singular mission facing the Church is to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and facilitate the growth of those who respond. We dare not let anything interfere with that mission, including matters of liberty and conscience.

I have shared my mental image of our church before. We stand at the corner of Heartbreak Ridge and New Hope Road. And, when Satan comes over the hill looking for an opportunity to exploit our congregation, this illustration shows what I want him to find:



- A body of believers fully equipped with the armor of God and without a single opening for him to exploit anywhere for we are aware of Satan’s schemes.

- A body of believers growing in the faith, boldly holding out the Gospel by which the lost can be saved, and maintaining the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace—

Some may think, “Pastor, you are being extra cautious.” Oh yes, I am because we are living in exciting times, spiritually speaking, and we are perhaps on the edge of a great harvest of lost souls. For who else has the sure and certain Hope that is ours to hold out to a lost and hopeless world? So, pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ, and what God will do with a body of believers who are fully committed to Him!

Praying for you!

Community for June 7

We plan to celebrate the Lord’s table in our first service together, and we will try something new. Rather than passing the communion trays, a sealed cup and bread will be at each chair. This will avoid the obvious complications associated with our customary communion serving practice.

If you are not planning to join us at the June 7 service, we will have the same cup and bread available the week prior to the service. Stop by during office hours to pick up what you need, or call the office and a deacon will bring it to you.