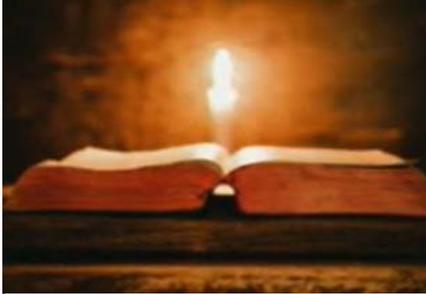


Vistoso Community Church Update: April 24,



IN YOUR LIGHT, WE SEE LIGHT

Psalm 36:9

Livestream Schedule

Sunday: Livestream Worship service at 10:00 am followed by 10 minutes of music, then Pastor Kevin will have 15 minutes of Q&A with e-mail questions: pastorkr@icloud.com

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.

MINISTRY TRANSITION

During her visit to VCC last October we learned that the Gilgal Global Ministries (GGM) President and Co-Founder, Christobel Russelliah was planning to retire and turn the ministry over to her son-in-law, Rev. Sunil Singh Nallathambi in July.

After Sunil's theological training in 2003 at GGM's Indian Theological Seminary, he spent four years under the teaching of Christobel's late husband, Rev. Dr. Chelliah Russelliah, earning a Bachelor of Theology. Following the completion of his Master of Theology degree, Sunil served God full-time through GGM ministries as Mission Coordinator. He has recently graduated in the U.S. with a Ph.D. in World Christianity and Global Missions, and is looking forward to his return to India and the transition at GGM.

This transition, however, is being made more difficult by the current pandemic. The first confirmed case of the coronavirus infection was reported on January 30 in Kerala, the neighboring state to Tamil Nadu where GGM is located.



Christobel with her daughter Thehill, son-in-law Sunil, and their children.

The Indian government has taken extreme steps to stop the spread, including a 24-hour lockdown for 21 days, and the prohibition of public meetings and all travel by road, rail, and air. GGM ministers primarily to people who are daily/hourly paid workers and these mandates have adversely affected their livelihoods. Most of GGM's village Church communities do not have internet capabilities limiting online worship options.

Please pray for the GGM missionaries who are challenged to providing pastoral care and Christian services during this time of crisis. And, pray for the transition of ministry leadership during these trying times.

MAY DEVOTIONALS

...are now in the literature rack just inside the fellowship hall door. If you are not able to pick up your copy, call the church during office hours to arrange delivery. The devotionals are printed at church and are part of our outreach ministry, so take additional copies to distribute to friends and neighbors.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Although there is no date as yet for the lifting of the quarantine, your church board met this week to begin planning for the time when we can meet again. Meeting will be complicated by the fact that the virus will still be with us and we all belong to an at-risk population. But, planning is underway to make sure that, when we can again gather, we can do it safely. In the meantime, we obey the mandate to gather together through our daily livestream broadcasts.



CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY

I would like to share with you this wonderful quote from Lehman Strauss, Bible teacher and prolific author:

“One ray of hope shines through the murky darkness of present world conditions, but that hope finds its application only to the believing children of God. It is spelled out clearly by the apostles of Christ in their divinely inspired writings as set forth in the Bible. It was mentioned by Christ in John 14:3, but it was given to the Apostles Paul and Peter to expound more fully. The Christian who studies his Bible is neither indifferent nor fearful concerning the future; he is hopeful. I have listened to worldly wise men, scientists, politicians, world leaders and educators express themselves about the future. All of their hopes are clearly marked by an element of uncertainty. But the Christian hope has a positive and certain ring to it, the reason being that it is identified with the Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

When I found this quote by Lehman Strauss, it reminded me of our present study in the book of Colossians. The saints were occupied with faith, hope, and love. When Paul gave thanks for the saints in Colosse, he said:

We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel. Colossians 1:3, 5

Later in the same chapter, we can read:

Christ in you, the hope of glory.
Colossians 1:27

Do we agree that the Christian hope has a positive and certain ring to it? Amen! Why, because that hope is identified with the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This world has always been in murky darkness since the fall of man, but Jesus Christ is the light of the world:

Christ has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14

Let me close with a poem penned by Lehman Strauss that especially speaks to our congregation.

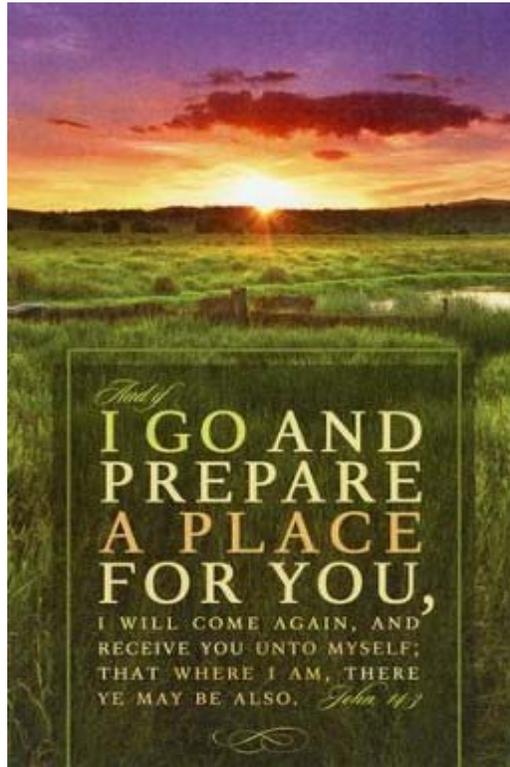
I love old Christians—
Christians with white hair,
Who lived through many years,
some stormy and some fair.
They know about the toils and
trials of life,
They marched through fields of
battlement and strife.

Through time and tribulation
they remain unchanged,
The constant glow of hope is in
their face.

They take sad news of loss
and sudden change,
Believing this to be God's
special place.
I sat one day beside an old
iron bed,
And asked my friend the secret
of her grace.

“My Lord is coming back for me,” she said,
“This is my hope, to see Him face to face.”

May we all be comforted and strengthened by our hope in Jesus Christ during these difficult times. In Him, Peter Tranvik.



The Lord blessed VCC with the development of livestream capabilities before the virus created a need. Early speculation was that our livestream Bible studies would decrease in audience but, as time went on, our broadcasts have seen growth in audience. Our Easter offering this year provided almost the same level of support for Missions as last year when we were regularly meeting. Your generous benevolent giving has allowed VCC to reach in and be a blessing to many in need during these trying times. **God is so good, trust Him to use us for His glory!**