



## The Vistoso Voice

### SINGERS BEGIN PRACTICING FOR EASTER



Saturday, January 12, from 9:00 until 11:30, our Director of Music Ministries, Yoojin Muhn, begins practicing with the choir for this year's Easter Cantata from Handel's *Messiah*. Practices will be every other Saturday until the cantata services on Saturday, April 20 and Easter Sunday, April 21. Anyone who loves to sing is invited to come to the Saturday

practices and sing in the cantata. Those who also wish to sing with the choir for Sunday worship should attend practices on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm.

The *Messiah* is one of the most popular sacred works in the world. It has three parts: Part I—the prophecy of the birth of the Messiah; Part II—the incarnation, passion, and resurrection; Part III—Christ's glorification in heaven. Our VCC choir and 18 players will present Parts II and III. Please keep our music ministry in prayer.

### AN INVITATION TO DELVE INTO GOD'S WORD

Come join us on January 8 for the continuation of the study of John's Gospel. We will pick it up in John Chapter 5, where you will see the beginnings of a definite change in the response of the people, especially the religious leaders, to the person and message of Jesus. To use Jesus' words as He spoke to the two men who would become His first disciples, "Come and see." (John 1:39) Come and hear the WORD as He speaks to you through this powerful Gospel and to use the words of Jesus found in Matthew 11:29: "Come and learn from Me."

We ask that you do two things if you plan to attend the study:

- **Please register for the study by signing your name on the sheets** that are located on the sign-up shelf in the Fellowship Hall. This applies to VCC members and attenders as well as guests you invite. By registering for the study you will enable us to plan more effectively for the number of people who will attend and then, as a result, provide a good study experience for all.
- **Pick-up your Study Guide** from the Church Office before January 8. Lesson 9, which is the lesson to be discussed at the first session, should be completed ahead of that day. As before, we look forward to a unique time of study and sharing around God's WORD in the New Year.

#### Vistoso Church

Telephone: 520-825-0652  
e-mail: vistosocc@icloud.com

#### Office Hours:

Tue-Thurs: 10 am-2 pm  
Friday: 8 am-12 noon

**Pastor: Kevin Redig**

**Emergency: 520-403-4088**



**Saturday Services.** Beginning January 5, VCC will have a 5:00 pm worship service each Saturday evening.



**Easter Cantata Practice.** The choir begins to practice for our cantata on Saturday, January 12 and 26, from 9:00-11:30.

**Men's and Women's Bible** study begins again on Tuesday, January 8 at 9:30. The continuation of VCC's study in the Book of John meets every Tuesday until April 23. See the article at left and on Page 2 for details.

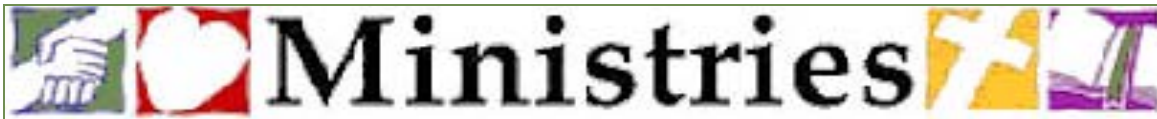
**Wednesdays at 7 pm.** We will have midweek prayer time and Bible study on January 2, 9, 16, and 30. On January 23, instead of Bible study, we have our annual business meeting. Members are urged to attend this important meeting.



**Other Bible Studies.** Our Men's Friday morning Bible study resumes on January 4, at 7:30 am. HeartCall Ladies Bible study resumes on Thursday, February 14, at 9:30 am. There is no HeartCall study this month.

**Mark Your Calendar.** VCC's first annual February Bible Conference is scheduled for Saturday, February 9 and Sunday, February 10. See Page 4 for more details.





# Ministries

## WHY A FOURTH GOSPEL? BY DOROTHY SMITH, DISCIPLESHIP CHAIR

During this past October and November, our Tuesday Men's and Women's Bible Study began a new study in the Gospel of John. Since it was written, this Gospel has always drawn men and women to its pages so the question that immediately comes to mind is why? What makes it so attractive and appealing that even unbelievers are drawn to it? God inspired three very similar gospels in the early days of the church and then thirty years later this very different and unique fourth gospel. Wouldn't one have been adequate to tell the story of Jesus? How should we understand the timing and contents of this Gospel in light of God's overall plan and purpose?

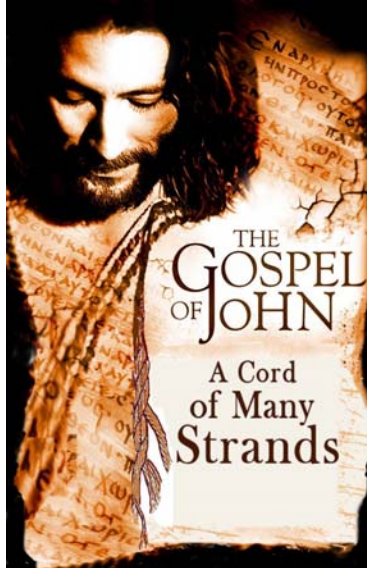
It would appear, from God's point of view, that the biography of Jesus remained incomplete. The Christian world knew Jesus as King of the Jews (Matthew), the humble servant (Mark), and the Son of Man (Luke). But there remained an unfulfilled need and we see that need as John states his purpose in writing:

*"But these are written that you may believe that **Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.**"*

John 20:31

John is guided to go back to the basics of the Christian Faith and answer two important questions:

Who is this Jesus? and What does it mean to put your faith in Him? John does this by means of a narrative which includes the Testimony of Jesus—His words, His actions (signs and miracles) as well as His lifestyle. In this very unique approach, John leaves no doubt in the mind of the reader that the man we know as Jesus of Nazareth is none other than God on earth! He begins the gospel not with a genealogy or record of his birth but with a reference to His eternal existence and a new



and very different term for the second person of the Trinity:

*"In the beginning was the **Word** and the **Word** was with God and the **Word** was God."*

John 1:1

John's focus remains on the person and nature of this Jesus of Nazareth as he uses titles such as "Lamb of God" (1:29), "The Messiah" (1:41), and "Savior of the World" (4:42). Further, we see the believing response of the people in summary phrases provided by John such as "His disciples put their faith in Him" (John 2:11b), "many people saw the miraculous signs and believed in His name" (John 2:23), and "so when the Samaritans came to Him they urged Him to stay.... and because of His words many more became believers." (John 4:42) As we continue to explore the uniqueness of this Gospel,

a secondary need seems to have arisen and been fulfilled by John's Gospel, that of a Guide for Evangelism. As we look at the last verses in the Gospel of Matthew, we find these words of Jesus:

*"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go, therefore, and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Matthew 28:18-20

Then in Acts 1:8, Jesus explains the enabling power the disciples would receive to carry out their mission to be His witnesses and spread the gospel throughout the world.

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."*

Yet, there had been no follow-up letter of instruction containing the *How To* of evangelism or discipleship. John provides this by allowing us to observe Jesus' activities, and hear His words as He engages the lost. In John 3 we see Him in conversation with the premier Rabbi and religious leader of the day and, in John 4, He engages a Samaritan woman at a well. Come join us for more insights in the Gospel of John.



# MISSIONS REPORT

## THANK YOU VISTOSO COMMUNITY CHURCH!

The Missions Committee expresses their gratitude for the generous spiritual, financial, and material support of the VCC fellowship. The missionaries and ministries we support are very grateful that we have such a heart for missions and a desire to spread God's Good News.

In addition to the missionaries and ministries we support on a regular basis, there were many 2018 highlights to look back on, including the following:

- VCC now has a *Sent Missionary*, a member of our church family whom we support as if she were our own child going into the mission field.
- We made three trips to the Tohono O'odham Reservation with donations of household items that have helped John Colman (top in the white shirt) in securing an abandoned church in the village of Topowa. We have also donated school supplies (bottom), money for children's Christmas gifts, assisted in repairing the Hikiwan Church van (middle), delivered our used sound equipment to First Papago Baptist Church in Sells, and provided a student scholarship to the Living Word Academy.
- VCC made donations of wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and used eyeglasses to ICARE in Yuma for their ministry in Mexico.
- Our financial support is helping construct a church in San Marcos, Mexico, that has outgrown its current facilities. See the photo below of the initial construction.
- We have deepened our relationship with Gilgal Gospel Mission, a ministry in Southern India.



(Above) Some of our ministries to the Tohono O'odham Reservation. (Left) The beginning of the church construction in San Marcos, Mexico

## DO MISSIONARIES MAKE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

BY KATHRYN FARRIS, MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The answer to the title question is "Of course!" After all, missionaries might have a few pounds they want to lose, or they may want to be more organized or always arrive on time! Like the rest of us, these best intentions are usually gone by the time spring rains fall.

There's another kind of planning that missionaries do and these are written on paper and taken more seriously. Most mission organizations require missionaries to make specific yearly plans. These plans involve assessing progress made in the previous year as well as formulating a strategy for the coming year.

In fact, our church requires a similar accounting from our missionaries and ministries each year. The amount of support or even our continued support is determined by the information the church receives from each missionary or ministry. Of course, many things are taken into consideration when making an assessment.

Although it is rare that we find ourselves out of sync with a missionary, this ongoing process of assessment sometimes makes it clear that it is necessary to end a relationship with a ministry or missionary. It could be by mutual

consent or because of a change of ministry direction that is no longer a good fit with

VCC. For example, VCC will not provide support for Casa Hogar in Mexico in 2019 because of a change in funding approach that no longer commits to using our donations for their intended purpose.

The primary intent of an assessment is to look at future plans that missionaries have and how VCC can come alongside to help them meet their goals. Please pray for our missionaries and ministries during this time that God would give them clear vision and sound judgment as they make plans for the coming year.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Eleanor Akker	01/01	Katy Friedlander	01/19
Evelyn Daley	01/02	John Silva	01/21
Bob Brunson	01/02	Sonja Gilgenbach	01/22
Dennis Hansen	01/03	Sandy Long	01/22
Joyce Collier	01/04	Marilyn Alletzhauser	01/28
Don Goetz	01/05	Audrey Johnson	01/29
Alan Bolty	01/06	Sonja Utseth	01/30
Monica Wood	01/07	Phyllis Henderson	01/31
Judy Jacobson	01/09	Cindy Tranvik	01/31
Shelley Bailey	01/10	<b>Anniversaries</b>	
Peggy Burnap	01/12	Jim and Phyllis Ketring—24 years	01/02
JoAnn Ullery	01/12		
Carol Jones	01/13	Ralph and Francine Webb—17 years	01/13
Rick Sexton	01/15		
Daven Hatfield	01/16	Darwin and Caryl Thornton—13 years	01/27



VCC is looking forward to our first Bible Conference this year on February 9th and 10th. We'll have two sessions Saturday morning followed by lunch, one session Saturday evening at the regular 5:00 pm service time, and the final session during our Sunday morning worship service. Pastor Dennis Rokser, Duluth Bible Church, will be the conference speaker and his topic will be our theme for 2019: "When the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3) The conference is a perfect opportunity to gather with our church fellowship for a time of concentrated teaching, and to draw others from our community who are interested in God's Word.