



The Vistoso Voice

A NEW WAY TO COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Every Wednesday night we spend time praying for people, and I know many pray throughout the week. Not surprisingly, we have been blessed with many, many answers to prayer over the past years. I am not sure that we have been adequately thankful for God's many answers, nor given Him the recognition (glory) that is His due for what He has done!

To respond more appreciatively, we have started a work in progress in the southeast corner of the Fellowship Hall—right behind the piano and across from the Missions Corner. It is meant to provide several things. First, a quiet place to pray whenever you feel so led. Second, a place to give testimony to answered prayer and build a memorial to God's faithfulness among us. The large pot in the corner,



filled with small stones, is that memorial—check it out when you have a chance. Read the placards that describe a way to give testimony to God's answered prayer. And look for a number of changes and refinements soon.

MARCH Activities

Saturday Evening Services at 5:00 pm continue until Easter.

Upper Room Discourse Study Tuesday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. The final lesson is April 7. 

Men's Bible Study in the Book of James meets at 7:30 am on Friday March 6, 13, 20, and 27.

HeartCall Ladies Bible Study meets Thursday, March 12 and 26 at 9:30 am. The ladies will continue their Prophetic studies in the Book of Revelation.



Restoring Your Joy Bible Study meets on Wednesdays beginning at 10:00 am on March 4, 11, 18, 25.

VCC's Midweek prayer and Bible study services on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm are scheduled for March 4, 11, 18, and 25. The current study topic is I Peter.

Choir practices. Regular practices are Wednesdays at 3:00 pm. Saturday cantata practices are Saturday, March 14 and 28 from 1:00-3:30 pm. 

Invitations for you to use to invite family and friends to the VCC Easter Cantata will be available beginning Saturday, March 21.

A NEW ORGANIZATION FOR THE VCC LITERATURE RACK

Between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall we are blessed to have literature racks filled with books of sermons, tracts, and other information. Recently, all the books based upon sermons have been re-titled to reflect the Book of the Bible that was their source. That change in organization is now reflected in our literature racks. The little orange cards extending above the books identify the Bible source and the books arranged below may be from several sermon series. Feel free to share these books with family and friends when you feel led to speak of spiritual things.





WHAT KIND OF CHURCH DOES THE LORD WANT US TO BE?

For the past several months we have been pondering the Church in general, and our local fellowship in particular. We left off last month with the following:

- We approach the Scriptures as if they are what they claim to be— “*God-breathed*”
- We value the Scriptures because they are both “*alive and powerful*” and able to “*make wise the simple*”
- We are careful to interpret the Scriptures normally.

That’s our topic for this month—the *normal* interpretation of God’s Word! To introduce our topic, let me share with you a comment I have heard many times: “So you are one of those who take the Bible literally!” Of course, this comment is always made with a pejorative tone. I tend to ignore the tone and respond as follows: “Oh no, I interpret the Bible normally”, and then go on to add, “I interpret it grammatically, historically, contextually, rhetorically. . . as I said—normally!” It is not uncommon for an interesting conversation to ensue.

Interpretation Example

Let me develop this further by using two passages of Scripture.

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.
(Genesis 1:31)

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. (II Peter 3:8)

Many teachers have used the text of II Peter to interpret the days of Genesis 1 as lasting for a thousand years or even much longer periods of time.



Is that good interpretation? No! For it removes the authority of the text from God as its author, and puts it into the hands of man as the interpreter—something we need to categorically reject! Let me show you how Genesis 1 would be interpreted *normally*. Remember, normal interpretation is just treating the Bible as the essential document it is, from which we simply want to extract the author’s meaning.

First, Genesis 1 contains a sequential listing of seven days. Furthermore, each day is associated with evening followed by morning. Is that the way we typically report a period of a thousand years, or does that seem more descriptive of a 24 hour day? Now it is true that we can find examples in Hebrews of the

word translated *day* referring to an indeterminate period of time, for example, “*the day of the Lord*”. But grammatically, when it is preceded by an ordinal number (first, second), it is never used in any way other than a 24-hour day.

But what about the “*day is like a thousand years*” mentioned in II Peter? From the standpoint of rhetoric, the text is clearly making use of a figure of speech called a simile (the use of the word “like” is the give-away). Normal interpretation requires us to take this in a comparative non-literal fashion. In doing so, we learn from the surrounding context that God operates outside of the time constraints placed upon us as human beings.

It is not my intent here to teach about Genesis 1, but rather, to challenge your thinking on how we should interpret each and every text of Scripture. As David Cooper, a past Bible scholar, quipped:

“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.”

This is what we do as we study and teach God’s Word here at VCC. Why is this important? Not only does it help us correctly understand the beginning of the Bible, but also matters of salvation, sanctification, and the certain return and reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. If your goal is to be a church that’s a center of Bible-teaching excellence, it’s an essential part!



PRAYER REQUESTS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

The Missions Committee sends all our supported missionaries an assessment form at the end of the year. We inquire about any changes or challenges in their ministry, personal situations, and financial support. We want to hear about ministry successes in the past year and their goals for the coming year. Most importantly, we ask if they have any prayer requests regarding:

- Personal or spiritual needs
- Ministry challenges or obstacles that require prayer

For the next months, this page will summarize those prayer requests. **You can see the full list in the Missions Corner.**

Roberta Cencil



That God will give me wisdom in all my decisions; provide the financial resources to continue reaching those who are curious about Him; to give me increased physical endurance.

You all have been exceedingly gracious to me in both financial support and ongoing prayer for many years. Thank you so much!

John and Mavis Coleman



Pray that God gives us daily wisdom, health, and financial needs met. And continue to pray for our daughter

Charity's health.

While I have heard stories of some who engage in dark forces, I haven't personally experienced any major attacks, and know it's because of your ongoing prayer covering and Gods protective watch care. God's blessing be with Vistoso Community Church, you are a God-sent blessing to our mission work with the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Rick & Marilyn Fodey

My desire is to cultivate greater spiritual attunement to God's heart, that I might better hear the needs



of the people God has given me the privilege to serve: those in the men's Bible study I lead; the small group I lead; and my responsibilities as an elder in my church. Most immediately I would love you to be praying that I quickly and fully grasp the entirety of the new position into which God has placed me. There is much to learn and the challenge is for me to be able to see all the intricacies. While I can see the overall painting, I must now be able to see and appreciate the brush strokes.

Gilgal Gospel Mission

Pray that God will give me physical health until I meet him as He gave to Caleb. After retirement in June



2020, if God gives me health and makes a way, I want to continue to serve the Kingdom of God and to tell someone about the love of God.

Pray for missionaries and seminary teaching staff who are called and committed to fulfill the vision of God. Thanks for your prayers and continued support. Every amount you give is used very carefully for the expansion of God's Kingdom. I know you will receive the blessings in this world and eternally. Amen.

Praise God. *Christobel*

Jon and Barb Habegger

We request prayer for our sons and their families to continue growing in Christ. Pray for Jon as he leads all the ministry in our county with the help of the Lord



Praise God for victory with Sunnyside School District in 2019!! Pray for the Lord to bring more workers, and that workers can mentor new workers when they must retire from a GNC team. We thank God that Coronado GNC began with 33 students attending. Pray for this team as they lead this GNC. Pray for the GNC at Gladden Farms. They have 87 children enrolled and need extra prayer. Pray for two new clubs opened in Sahuarita.

THANK YOU! WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOU!

Vistoso Community Church
 Telephone: 520-825-0652
 e-mail: vistosocc@icloud.com
 Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday:
 10 am-2 pm;
 Friday: 8 am-12 noon
Pastor: Kevin Redig
Emergency: 520-403-4088

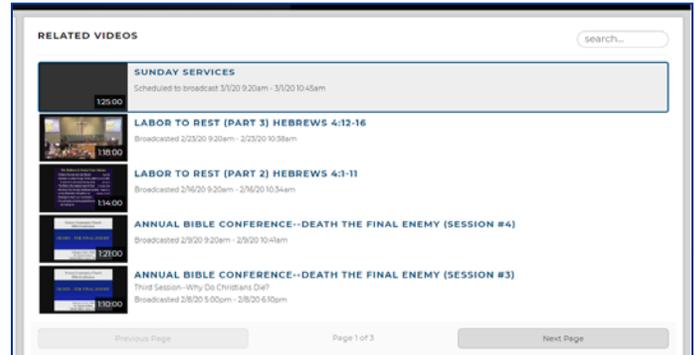
LIVESTREAMING GIVES YOU ACCESS TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICES—ANYWHERE

VCC's newest outreach is to livestream our Sunday morning services. This facility was added to our sound room capabilities so that members of our congregation, who cannot attend the actual service, can worship with us from their homes. The live-streamed service, or any of the archived services, can be viewed on your computer or, in the case of smart TVs, on your home television.

The broadcast is easy to access either live at the time of the service or for several weeks after by following these steps:

1. **Go to the VCC website:** Type Vistoso.org in the address line at the top of your computer screen to bring up our home page (top graphic).
2. **Click the LiveStream Icon** in the right column, highlighted on the Home Page at right, to bring up VCC's livestream page.
3. **View the live service.** If the service is in progress, you will immediately see the video on the livestream page. You can click the double arrow to enlarge the livestream viewing screen.
4. **Select a service.** The screen also offers a list of the services, and in some cases Bible Studies that are also available for viewing, as shown in the bottom graphic at right. Currently the list contains all of the 2020 services and the four sessions of our February Bible Conference but the normal retention period is 30 days.

Although the livestream capabilities were added to benefit our congregation, there have been some surprising results. The statistics gathered by our



livestreaming service indicate that our services are now being watched in seven states. This means that livestreaming has opened up a whole new avenue of outreach ministry for our congregation to our family and friends, wherever they are located.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WONDERFUL WIDOWS VALENTINE DINNER



The evening started with a gathering time in the church foyer. The men of the Church drove, served, and even grilled the shish kebabs prepared by the hospitality committee. Then the ladies enjoyed a wonderful dinner at beautifully decorated tables, followed by Ukelele entertainment in the sanctuary.