

Church Life News

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First Christian
CHURCH of VISALIA



Mike's Musings

The basic definition of “noise” is unwanted sound. For example, static you might hear while listening to a radio channel, and the sound of traffic as you dine in a restaurant, etc. The truth is our lives are filled with “noise,” and I’m not just talking about unwanted sound, I’m referring to “noise” in the broader context of any unwanted, or more importantly, unneeded sensory input. What do I mean? Our lives are filled with sights and sounds we either intentionally expose ourselves to or tolerate, but in actuality they either harm us or do not benefit us. A perfect example is television, or more appropriately the “idiot box.” According to a Cal State Northridge study the average American watches 4-5 hours per day, for young children 4 hours, and slightly less for older children. The average adult male watches approximately 29 hours of TV per week and the average adult female watches about 34 hours per week. Ninety-nine percent of American households own at least one TV, and the average number per household is 2.24, with sixty-six percent owning three or more. Another interesting find is the number of videos rented daily is about six million and the number of books checked-out from the library is about three million.

Over 4,000 studies have been done examining the effects of TV on children and the results are sobering! The average number of minutes parents spend in meaningful conversation with their children is 3.5 minutes, whereas the average number of minutes a child spends per week watching TV is 1,680. So who is influencing and raising our children? With our youth the numbers are interesting as well; the average

American youth spends approximately 900 hours a year in school, yet watches an average of 1500 hours of TV that same year. So who is teaching our kids? More importantly what are they teaching them? By time an average child finishes elementary school they have viewed approximately 8,000 murders on TV, and by time they are 18 they have seen about 200,000 acts of violence. Then we can talk about the influence of TV on sexual standards on consumerism, etc.

Our lives are filled with “noise,” not only is much of what we watch or listen to pure garbage offering no tangible benefit to us, the sad truth is much of it is actually harmful. A slow process of brainwashing by the ruler of this world order, which undermines those things, that actually brings meaning, peace and contentment to our lives.

America leads the world in the per capita average of its citizens seeking help for mental health issues, and also leads the world in the per capita average of its citizens taking anti-depressants!

I preached on spiritual warfare throughout 2011 and as Christians we need to take to heart the warning from the Apostle Peter when he warns about our adversary roaming around like a ravenous lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). None of us are exempt from his efforts and certainly he wants to fill our waking moments with sights and sounds that do not benefit us, as he attempts to divert us from the admonition by the Apostle Paul, that whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is

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Missions - Mike Messinger

Four members of First Christian Church are flying to Kenya to visit Misheck Kanake and the Africa Rural Institute (ARI), a mission project this church has supported for over twenty years. Richard Shacklett, Kevin Turl, Kevin Guy and Pastor Mike will depart on March 3rd and once in Kenya will examine all aspects of what Misheck is doing with the intent of finding better ways in which we as a church can support this ministry. The mission work in Thailand has been greatly

helped by the fact that Siami, the director of the ministry, is also an astute businesswoman. Misheck is pure pastor, and we hope the trip will find ways in which we help Misheck better finance his ministry. In Thailand a major source of income is through the sponsorship of the children, and that is something Misheck hasn't really developed. In this modern age having a website is also a good way to promote what one is doing and ARI does not have a website.

If you are interested in supporting this trip financially you can designate your gift for the offerings on Sunday or mail a gift into the church. Traveling to Thailand is much cheaper than traveling to Africa, which is why the last time someone went out to visit Misheck was back in the 90's. Your prayers are also greatly valued not only for safe travel, but also that the trip will in a significant way help the work being done at ARI.

FCC Library

Here at FCC we have a wonderful library. It has many great books, videos & DVD's to offer.

We have just added a dozen DVD's from the History Channel. Titles of these are: "Biography: Pontius Pilate," "Mysteries of the Bible: The Last Supper," "Biography: Paul," "Lost Worlds: Jesus' Jerusalem," "The Trial of Jesus," "Judas: Traitor or

Friend?," "Secrets of the Ancient World, James: Brother of Jesus?," "Mary of Nazareth," "The Execution of Jesus," "Biography: Jesus His Life," "The Story of Paul the Apostle," and "The Story of the Twelve Apostles."

Also, we have a set of three DVD's from Biblical Archaeology Society they include: "4QMMT and Paul: New Light on Old Ques-

tions," "A Jesus Hideout in Jordan? Mapping Ancient Textual Traditions," "Honor and Shame."

Besides these we have many family friendly movies that you might be interested in for your home "movie & popcorn" nights.

Please stop by the library and browse. The library is available on Sundays after service or during office hours each week.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Carlos Alexandre.....	1	Irene Slocum	18
Glenn Wells.....	5	Brandon Romer	21
Amanda Blackburn.....	7	Jon Shacklett	21
Marcia Moore.....	7	Tim Glick	23
Deneyse Gray	8	Robert Baxter	24
Lacey Jureka.....	8	Bailey Beach	24
Diane Sellers	9	Justin Black	25
Stephen Stoner.....	9	Mike Gunning	27
Kay Fox.....	13	Joanne Hazen	27
Julia Huff.....	14	Yaneiz Shattuck	27
Sue Geis.....	15	Julie Bornand	28
Logan Ritter.....	16	Connor Jameson.....	28
Glen Kellerhals.....	17	Cheyenne Whitley.....	28



**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

Pete & Erin Sheaff..... 17
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Baker..... 28

Youth Ministry - Carrie Guy

I have started the year with a plan to read the Bible in a year. I have so far been able to stay the course, and love the plan I have chosen. My daily Bible reading contains 3 Old Testament chapters and 1 New Testament chapter each day. I love getting both parts of the Bible in one sitting. I recently read Matthew 18 and felt stuck on the selection below. I then found a excerpt from an online devotional that I wanted to share.

Matthew 18:1-4 ~ *At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (NIV Bible)*

"In this scripture passage, Jesus calls us to become like little children. The call isn't to be childish,

but to simply be child like. Young children know that they are needy. They look to their parents to provide everything that they need and want...food, clothing, shelter, teaching, activities, guidance and even discipline. They are like love sponges, having the capacity to soak into their little bodies as much love as we can give them. They live for hugs and kisses and meaningful touch, an intimate connection that affirms them and tells them that they are welcome into this world and that they are greatly loved.

Jesus calls us to become like little children. Since Jesus says that becoming child-like is a prerequisite to entering the Kingdom of Heaven, we should take note of another characteristic of a little child. Simple faith. Little children have the faith to simply believe that they will receive what they need when they need it. They don't worry about it, they don't strive over it, they simply expect it."

http://www.fathersloveletter.com/Devotionals/1_FLLdevotional.html

As I read this I just thought as we approach Valentines' Day, let's love each other like children do. Let's give our hearts to each other fully; knowing the bounty of love we have from our heavenly father.

Youth Calendar

- SNS – We will continue our series "Courageous" by Francis Chan

No SNS on the 12th or 19th

- Valentine's Fundraiser – If you ordered flowers, don't forget to get your order and pay for them. We appreciate your support!
- Spring Break Mission Trip is April 4th – 7th. We will be working in Los Angeles with Oasis of Hollywood this year. If you are not already signed up, please get your deposit in to Carrie and fill out the proper paperwork.

Children's Ministry - Pam Shattuck

The New Year is off to a great start and many exciting things are happening in Children Ministry. We are gearing up for Vacation Bible School, which is June 18- 22. The theme is Sky: Everything is Possible with God. We are getting our flight crew together and getting ready to take off in another adventure as the kids buckle their seats, put their trays in their upright position, turn off all electronic devices and learn how much the God that created the universe and all that is in it loves them no matter what and will be there no matter where they are, how they feel, what they are doing and who they are with.

Please consider volunteering to be on our flight crew to bring this message to the kids in our community. There is going to be an informational meeting on Friday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Fireside room at the church. This meeting we will talk about the theme and how you can be part of it. Also check for future postings of items that will be needed for VBS. If you have any questions, please contact our Pilot Pam Shattuck has she and her ground crew prepare for our flight.

Another exciting opportunity is for our 4th – 6th graders. It is time again to hold your spot for summer camp at Hartland Christian Camp.

I have requested 12 spots for this year and if I need to get more I can. If your child would like to go, please get their \$35 deposit to the church office by February 1st and no later than Sunday February 5th. The total cost of camp is \$340 per camper. We are going to be holding fundraisers between now and camp time. If you have an idea for a fundraiser, please let me know. If there is anyone who would like to sponsor a camper you can either put your donation in the offering plate or drop off at the church. Please mark on your check or envelop that monies are being donated for Junior Camp. Thank you in advance.

Are We Awake? - Joyce Hogan

“For behold, darkness will cover the earth, And a deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you, And His glory will appear upon you”. Isaiah 60:2

Some of you will remember a song played a lot in the late ‘50s called, **“Whole Lot of Shakin Going On”**. If you were a dancer you could have had a lot of fun with the wild beat! People looked quite silly as they ventured out on the dance floor to the rhythm of that song. After you danced a few dances with this type of music, you would be literally be out of breath and worn out.

Well for quite some time there has been a **great shaking** going on in the church. And the shaking is causing a lot of dead traditions, prayerlessness and unscriptural divisions to crumble like a jar of clay in an earthquake.

It is hard to understand that even with all the signs, wonders, and warnings, which have been happening for quite some time, there is still a drowsiness that we must overcome. It is not anything new, this drowsiness, is the same as spoken about in Matthew 25:5 where Jesus compares the church to virgins who “all got drowsy and began to sleep”.

It doesn’t seem possible that virgins are sleeping at the end of the age along with the signs in the heavens and wonders upon the earth, not to mention the increasing Presence of Christ. Yet the tendency to become spiritually drowsy and lose our focus as we wait is something we each battle.

The enemy continues to lull mankind to sleep with the preoccupation of the latest movie or the hundreds of sporting events, until just like Eve we blurt out our excuse, “The serpent hath caused me to forget” Gen. 3:13 Young).

It is not that we don’t see that the Light is there, we just “have to do the laundry” or read the newspapers, or watch one more television show etc, which seems to indicate we would really just rather stay in the *dark*. There is nothing at all holding any of us back —nothing except the pile of things that is ruling our lives causing us to fail to recognize that we were made to Host God’s Presence.

If the world is going to see Jesus, we are going to have to enter the glory of God. If we want that dream of the glory filling the temple, we will have to wake up to the promises God gives us in the Scrip-

tures for the here and now.

It just may be time for us to put away all that is permissive, and even what is permissible, and find what is permanent. For this reason, the Scripture says, **“AWAKE, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you”** (Eph. 5:14).

Charles Finney says that when the churches are awakened and reformed, the reformation and salvation of sinners will follow. Those coming to Christ will go through the same stages of conviction, repentance, and reformation. Their hearts will be broken down and changed. Very often the most abandoned profligates are among the subjects. Harlots, and drunkards, and infidels, and all sorts of abandoned characters, are awakened and converted. The worst part of human society are softened, and reclaimed, and made to appear lovely specimens of the beauty of holiness.

Let’s all shake off the distractions and spiritual darkness and realize that it is time to enter the temple and be swallowed up in His glory!

Mike’s Musings (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things (Philippians 4:8).

The irony of life is that we say we want peace and contentment, but we fill our lives with that which

ultimately lead us in the opposite direction. It’s never too late to transfer control of your life from the teachings and control of the ruler of this world to the one who truly cares about you, the Lord Jesus Christ.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

Family Camp ~ June 1-4, 2012

Family Camp is back! It's been at least four years since our last one, the down side is that we could only get a weekend that doesn't have a holiday attached to it and it is at the end of the school year. The good news is that we have Aspen Hallow Group Campground (Sequoia National Forest), which is one mile from Hume Lake General Store. The dates this year are Friday, June 1 through Monday, June 4, and some will not be able to stay through Monday, but leave when you must. This is a great time of fellowship, recreation, relaxation and worship. In terms of an agenda we intentionally try to keep things low key, so you can relax and enjoy each other's company or even some time of solitude, so the following agenda is one we offer, but you decide how you want to spend your time:

Friday Night - Sneak out of work early if you can and get to the Aspen Hallow before dark if possible (it's about an hour and a half drive from Visalia, unless you drive like the Pastor), setting up a tent or leveling your RV by flashlight is not the most pleasant experience. Friday nights are pretty laid back; dinner is up to each family or individual because there is no consistent time of arrival. Friday night is pretty much a time of getting set-up and settled-in.

Saturday - Variety of activities includes hiking, relaxing, swimming,

boating, fishing, touring, or whatever suits your fancy. Saturday night is when we have our chili cook-off with prizes for the winners. The evening is capped-off with campfire sing-along (you may want to bring some firewood with you).

Sunday - A worship service is conducted after breakfast around 10:00 AM. After that the day is open for whatever you want to do, hangout at the campground, drive around Sequoia/Kings Canyon, or like most of the people, return to Sandy Cove at Hume Lake. In the evening we have our campground potluck, followed by a talent show and campfire sing-along.

Monday - Pack up and go home.....eventually! No rush. Actually the lake gets rather peaceful after everyone hurries up and leaves. Take your time. The valley, your job, your responsibilities, your in-laws, etc., will still be there when you return. (Also the HEAT).

It is important to note that you have to pay to enter Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park (\$20 for per car for one week, or you can buy an annual pass for \$30) to get to Aspen Hallow, and you will need to show your pass or receipt when you leave. Also, the only gas station close by is at Hume Lake and prices are quite steep, so it is good to top-off your vehicle before you leave for camp. Aspen Hallow can facili-

tate up to one hundred people so there is lots of space. No fees for extra cars, and we have the site to ourselves. There are pads for RVs up to a maximum of 40 feet, and there are no hook-ups available. The campground facilities are handicap accessible. As far as which space is yours...it is first come first serve.

Directions From Visalia take Hwy 63 north through Cutler and Orosi skirting Orange Cove to Hwy 180. Continue on Hwy 180 to park entrance, at the fork just past the park entrance you can take a left staying on Hwy 180, taking a right onto Hume Lake Road (just past Princess Campground) and go past the Hume Lake General Store about .3 mile to Aspen Hallow Lane, take a right and follow the road (.7 miles) till it dead ends at Aspen Hallow Campground (the Hwy 180 route to Aspen Hallow from the fork is 12.86 miles). At the fork near the Sequoia National Park entrance you can also take a right onto Hwy 198 and then turn left on Ten Mile Road to Hume Lake for nine miles, then look to your left for Aspen Hallow Lane and go to the end of the road (the Hwy 198 route to Aspen Hallow is 13.4 miles).

This year we have reserved the weekend of June 1, 2 & 3. Stop by the office to put down your deposit (\$50, less for individuals) and reserve your place.



The Story of the Song “Forever” - Chuck Romer

January Attendance

January 1.....	96
January 8.....	130
January 15.....	120
January 22.....	146
January 29.....	127

January Giving

January 1.....	\$8,256.88
January 8.....	\$3,142.26
January 15.....	\$7,062.42
January 22.....	\$2,685.75

February Ministers

Deacons		Elders
Wayne Geis	Feb 5	Kaplan’s
Sue Geis		
Tami Tharp	Feb 12	Moore’s
Tim Hart		
Ryan Ritter	Feb 19	Stan Livesay
Roger Johnson		Lance Jepson
Ann Johnson	Feb 26	Messinger’s
Alex Messinger		
Elaine Rider		
Ana Morales		
JoAnne Jordan		

Drivers

If you need a ride to church during the month of February please call one of the people listed below:

Tami Tharp.....	592-1406
Wanda Sharp.....	732-0836

FCC Library is Open



Stop in and see what we have on the shelves!

How long is forever? Is it waiting a minute for the microwave to finish heating a cup of tea... waiting for the traffic light to change so you can be on your way... waiting for your sixteenth birthday so you can take the driving test (Brandon!)?

In our fast paced lives, such moments of waiting are often described as “taking forever.” But I think we’d all agree that “forever” is really a bit longer than the moment we have to wait for a traffic light... or stand in the check out line at the grocery store.

One definition of forever suggests that it means “for a limitless time.” A second definition suggests something happens “continually, at all times...” as in, I am forever making silly puns. ☺

On *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday* we sang a Chris Tomlin song that is simply entitled “Forever.” It is one of my favorite praise songs, and although it was first published ten years ago, it remains a favorite of churches throughout the U.S. and Canada. In a recent survey it came in #11 of the most frequently sung songs in churches across the U.S. Here’s a bit of the story behind the song... and it did take “forever” to write:

Forever, a song of praise for the enduring nature of God’s love, took Chris four years to complete. It has become one of those songs that people just can’t seem to stop singing. The idea for the verses came easily enough... but the chorus was harder to work out. It never left Tomlin’s mind, though.

“Every time we went into the studio to record something,” Chris remembers, “I would bring the verse to that song...in hopes that someone else would be able to come up with a chorus. I write a lot of “parts” of songs. Then I collaborate with someone else to finish them.”

Tomlin continued, “With **Forever** the chorus just never happened, and the song just didn’t feel complete. Then one day – after four years – it just happened. I was sitting there and singing, ‘Forever God is faithful, forever God is _____’ and I couldn’t come up with the next word.”

“Then our bass player’s wife, Janet, stuck her head in the door and said ‘STRONG!’ And just like that, it clicked... and I finished the song.”

Next time you find yourself waiting for the traffic light to change or the microwave to finish, why not take a moment and sing this song in your heart... and be reminded of God’s faithful, forever presence in your journey in life.

*Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong.
Forever God is with us, forever, forever.*

Prayer Concerns

Audra Frey
Wanda Sharp
Bertha Meyer
George Meyer
Kim

Brenda
Juan
Mia
Dominique
Cindy Weart

Oliver Ajluni
Fern Kelly
Donna Eastin
Andie Saltzman
Tom Duvall



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*Biblically Based
Christ Centered
Spirit Led*

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

Staff E-Mail Addresses:

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Pam Shattuck, Children's Ministry
pshattuck626@gmail.com
Chuck Romer, Music Director
music@fccvisalia.org
Sheila Ronk, Church Secretary
sec@fccvisalia.org

If you have questions contact Pam at the Church Office — 732-6623 Tuesdays 9AM-2PM

Kingdom Kids News

Where a kid can be God's kid!



Kid's Choir after church on Sundays. Preparing to sing a song for Youth Sunday

Kingdom Kids Programs:

Sunday School—9:00 Sunday Mornings
Jesus Street—During Church Service (10:15 AM Sundays)
AWANA—Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 PM

VBS

Informational Meeting
Friday, February 3rd
6:30 pm Fireside Room.

Junior Camp Sign ups.

4th – 6th grade at Hartland Christian Camp
July 8 – 13, 2012.

Deposit to hold spot \$35 total camp fee \$340.
See Pam Shattuck for more information.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Christian Church
1023 N. Chinowth Street
Visalia, CA 93291-4114