



The Fountain  
1023 N Chinowth St.  
Visalia, CA 93291



The  
**FOUNTAIN**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*Intentionally Growing, and #LivingSENT for Jesus*



The  
*Fountain*  
Christian Church

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# The Terrorists are Victims Too

By Pastor Sam Sears

I can recall having a moment of pride when I was a youth pastor and hearing one of my youth pray for terrorists in the Middle East. “Be with the terrorists, because they are victims, too.” When I say pride, I don’t mean sinful pride. What I mean is that I felt a thankfulness that God had used me in this youth’s growth, but even more so a thankfulness for that growth, giving God the glory for it. He was growing, he was catching some of things we were discussing as a group and the biblical truth that was being taught. I had excitement for his increasing maturity.

This prayer occurred many years ago, when 9/11 was still fresh, and when the war in Afghanistan was still a hot topic. There was an increasing cultural concern that American immigrants and Muslims would be targeted unfairly. There were also concerns for civilians overseas and how they might be perceived by the average American. The media was bringing up the topic of Islam often, and the youth were also hearing things from their peers, teachers, and online influences. There was also a nearby local mosque, so some of them had had encounters with Muslims face to face.

The American culture seemed to reflexively recoil from any suggestion that an entire religion was bad, or that an entire people group was bad. They would often improperly label it “racism.” Islam isn’t a race; it is both a political and religious system, and for much of the world, the two sides are not separated. Certainly we can agree, from a biblical perspective, that these people were made in the image of God, and also that God desires them to hear the Gospel and turn from their wrongdoings (2 Peter 3:9). The American culture, however, is deeply in love with relativism, which I will address deeper at a later time, and many have an underlying assumption that all religions are equal, which played into the resistance of painting Islam itself as the enemy.

We would, and continue to, hear messages that Islam was a religion of peace. That is partially true; many Muslims, especially in the West, are peaceful people, but their prophet was not. You can read a long list of his victims here: [https://wikiislam.net/wiki/List\\_of\\_Killings\\_Ordered\\_or\\_Supported\\_by\\_Muhammad](https://wikiislam.net/wiki/List_of_Killings_Ordered_or_Supported_by_Muhammad).

The hadiths inform us of Muhammad’s actions, and his life is still seen as example today. Yes, the end goal of the religion is peace, but with a big caveat: peace under total control of Islam.

We heard, and still hear, that a “Jihad” doesn’t have to be violent. It is correct that “jihad” means “struggle.” *Mein Kampf* also means “My Struggle,” and that author’s struggle was very violent. Hitler’s “struggle” left unfathomable piles of bodies behind and is recognized as one of the most evil ideologies to have ever existed.

Given our own past in America, we are rightly sensitive about broad brushes applied to large people groups. Sadly, there have been acts of prejudice and inappropriate mistreatment of individual Muslims, but we should be sharing the gospel with them, recognizing that all human beings have a special value and are worthy of respect, regardless of their beliefs. The challenge comes when we fail to attack the bad ideas for fear of hurting the person.

Separating out the person from their beliefs is an important part of critically thinking about who or what our enemies really are. Ephesians 6:12 says, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (NASB) Muhammad received his “revelation” from an angel that he initially thought was a demon, but his wife convinced him to change his mind. I’m certain he was right the first time. Based on this spiritual force, he developed ideas contrary to the truth. In 2 Corinthians 10:5, Paul records that as part of his ministry, “We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” (NASB) We must continue to do the same. We must examine ideas by the light which Christ has given us.

Last month, I mentioned that I passionately believe in the phrase, “Ideas have consequences, and bad ideas have victims.” The biblically balanced approach to the threat of a violent and literal Islam includes loving the individuals and yet addressing the ideas that they hold. Long before the perpetrators of 9/11 hijacked those planes, their minds were hijacked. Imagine what would have happened had they been won for Jesus before they got on those planes. It doesn’t excuse their actions, but it helps to recognize that they were lied to. There were no virgins waiting on them in paradise. It still goes on today. Many suicide bombers are used by handlers, who aren’t doing the suicide bombing themselves. Had they been convinced of what was true, they wouldn’t have been so willing to die.

The youth who said that prayer understood that, just like him-

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## Fountain Field Days



Due to dangerously poor air quality and a health warning issued for Tulare county, we have delayed Fountain Field Days until September 14th.

Instead of offering a traditional Vacation Bible School this year, we will be offering a FREE OUTDOOR program called FOUNTAIN FIELD DAYS. There are limited spots, and measures to keep each child safe, but we would love to have you if you are healthy, not in the most at risk category, and desiring for your kids to enjoy some outdoor play time and bible lessons.

First things first, We want to share with our safety measures:

## Safety Measures

1. We are limiting activities to 40 child participants.
2. There will be 4 separate groups of participants.
3. We will be outdoors in our field, with large space to social distance.
4. Upon check in each child will have their temperature taken.
5. Games will involve distance from one another, like water balloon tosses, and relay races where students don't actually touch.
6. Snacks will be all prepackaged.
7. We will use our check in and check out system with printed name tags.

Children age 4 through 12 are welcome to join us each night for field day fun and faith building lessons! We will offer a different theme and new exciting experiences each session. Each night there are snacks provided and group game time, so please fill out the necessary information below, including allergies, and health conditions so that we can ensure your child's safety. We will need a separate form filled out for each child you wish to participate. Only a few spots left. Registration is FREE! We hope to see you there!

# September 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Fri

Sat

		1		4		5
6 8:30 am Outdoor Worship 10:00 am Worship						12
13 8:30 am Outdoor Worship 10:00 am Worship				18		19
20 8:30 am Outdoor Worship 10:00 am Worship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:30 am Outdoor Worship 10:00 am Worship	28	29	30			

Watch your email and our website  
<https://thefountaincc.org/>  
 for events that we will be hosting as  
 we continue to adjust to the  
 changing times.

6:00 pm Fountain Field Days for kids age 4 to 12!



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## It Is Finally Barely August

By Kevin Ronk

My description of high school has always been this: "It was simultaneously the longest and shortest four years of my life." As we're now part way through August of 2020, I'm feeling like that description is just as fitting. Frustration, uncertainty, adjustment, innovation; there have been a lot of events and emotions that span the entire spectrum thus far. But as we work through it all, I think it's even more important than ever to remember that Jesus Christ is King, and his plan continues to work through us, his church.

I can tell you confidently that being part of a church staff through this period of time is no easy task. Wading through the endless sea of differing opinions, adjusting as gracefully and appropriately as possible to new and strange situations, struggling to separate concern from panic (on all sides of the discussion); and all the while doing our best to have the grace, love and compassion that Christ would have... There just isn't much in the way of clarity or peace at times.

But again, times such as these are when we as Christians must choose to fully trust God, and as Proverbs 3: 5-6 tells us "Lean not on our own understanding." At first glance, the present situation can seem daunting and insurmountable. It can seem hopeless. It can be hard to find assurance. I was recently practicing "Cornerstone" in preparation for worship; and it occurred to me that it was really a perfect reminder that we shouldn't expect to find hope and assurance in this world. Those are things that we find only in Christ Jesus, the Cornerstone of our faith, and Lord of all.

I say all of this in order to communicate the approach and intention that we as a church have going forward; to reach a deeper, richer, fuller understanding of what it means to have total faith in Christ. Not just when we see God's plan in action. Not just during growth, or peace, or any other obvious result. But also, if not especially, while we navigate the unknown. While we experiment with new technologies, new methods of delivering the gospel, new times and settings, new difficulties and new roadblocks.

We, as a church staff and family, are striving to accomplish this continued learning, and to encourage and lead the congregation towards the same. We are adjusting to quarantine suggestions by holding outdoor services; youth group is going "on the road" and meeting youth at their homes. We are continually upgrading technology and working out kinks to provide the best streaming services we can. And if we continue to seek God's guidance and do our very best to put his plans before our own, there is no chance of failure; no matter the trials along the way.

Faith in times of peace and comfort is easy;  
Faith in times of uncertainty is worth it.

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## Missions Update

By Judy Jameson

Just recently two of the missionary families we help support have lost loved ones they were not able to see before they died. Seth Wick lost his grandmother and his wife, Dina, lost her grandmother but they were not able to visit them because of COVID travel restrictions. Clementa Frederiksen had reached the United States but was unable to see her mother before she passed.

We did hear that Misheck Kanake in Kenya finally received our financial support. However, at this time with COVID, students are not coming to school. With the schools closed, there is no other financial support. The good news is that Misheck and Jennifer have not had COVID.

Please continue to pray for these missionary families and all of our missionaries around the world as they too are dealing with these unusual circumstances, obstacles and suffering. Please pray for their health and protection.

My parents went through the 1918 pandemic as children, the Depression and World War II as adults. However, they were never in a situation where you couldn't go to church or gather with family and friends. We are experiencing problems that are different, but with the Lord, not unsurmountable.

As we all reexamine how we have done things in the past, let us pray we are given fresh eyes and hearts for those who are hurting and lost. I pray we will be able to have an eternal perspective, keeping Christ first as we look for new ways to be his people during this time. Please pray for our responses, both as individuals and as a church, to these many needs. Thank you for your continued financial support for our missionaries, local missions and church.

## Attendance & Giving

August 2020

Date	Attendance	Giving
Aug 2 .....	69 .....	\$5,583.00
Aug 9 .....	79 .....	\$3,764.60
Aug 16 .....	74 .....	\$3,451.46
Aug 23 .....	72 .....	\$1,731.00
Aug 30 .....		\$
Online Giving.....		\$3,235.00
Total .....		\$17,765.06



## The Terrorists are Victims Too

By Pastor Sam Sears

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self, those people needed a Savior and that Jesus had died for them. He was also aware that they were victims of bad ideas. I will continue to address bad ideas that have impacted our society and the American church in upcoming newsletters, but I want to give this additional forward. Sometimes when we talk about important ideas and the people who disagree with us, we produce more heat than light. The people who perpetuate the ideas that I will be discussing are themselves also victims of them. It may seem bizarre to claim a terrorist is a victim, but in a way they are. It will likely seem equally bizarre to claim proponents of bad ideas inside the church are victims, but again, they are victims of the bad ideas they hold. If we approach things with wisdom, we may be able to stop bad ideas from leading to more bad actions. We should desire they be set free, and there is no place in Christianity to wish malice upon people just because they think differently than we do. The hope should be for their freedom from these bad ideas, for God's glory, and their benefit.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

September 2020

Nina Suttles .....	1	
Jacob Gunning .....	6	
Les Bittle .....	8	
Sue Ritter .....	12	
Danny Frigulti .....	14	
Margie Barlogio .....	15	
Danita Bittle .....	16	
Donna Romer .....	19	
Jenna Shane .....	19	
Mary Cosmey .....	21	
Carrie Guy .....	24	
Mike & Glenda Gunning .....	9	
Carl & Ruthy Shane .....	10	
Earl & Carolyn Subejano .....	14	
Connor & Judy Jameson .....	21	

*Happy Anniversary!*

## Prayer Concerns

September 2020

Pray for the desire and opportunity to effectively share your faith!

Our Nation and Leaders

Teachers & Students in Visalia

### Health

Ana Morales, Ashley Banuelos, Barbara Grant, Bill Bianchi, Cindy Marks, Donna Eastin, Frank Henley, Jean Lamb, Kevin Guy, Lynette Johnson, Pam Shattuck, Pauline Gurule, Rick Hamilton, Fred Wilder, Sandy Zinger

### Cancer

Charles Douglass, Hazel Bahrenburg, Jiggy Greene, Jim Ramsey, Joe Grant, Joe Ryan, Michael Elder, Mike Brazil, Olly Ajluni, Shannan Ajluni

### Other Needs

Debbie Englebrecht (back surgery recovery)

Nina Suttles (Vision)

Sheila Wharton (Heart attack)

### Military

Andie Richwine - Marine

Brett Boland - Virginia

Jason Mariel - Afghanistan

Matthew Calhoun - Fort Knox

Michael Reid - Fort Worth, TX

Preston Correa - Marines