



THE FOUNTAIN

CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

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Leviticus 2:13

“Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.”

COLOR ME EGG HUNT

By Romy Sagastume, Next Gen Pastor

This year I was inspired by *The Color Run* for this year's egg hunt. *The Color Run* was founded in March 2011. It became the world's first COLOR 5km event. It was intended to promote healthiness and happiness by bringing the community together to participate in the "Happiest 5k on the Planet". At each kilometer mark, runners are doused from head to toe in a different colored powder. Participants wear white at the starting line and finish the race plastered in color.

Here at The Fountain one of our main goals is to reach the "un-gospeled". What better way than having our community join us in a fun family event to celebrate HE IS RISEN.



The origin of The Color Run is to promote kindness and happiness. Now more than ever we are called to shine bright in the dark times that this world is living in. Matthew 5:14-16 NIV "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven".

Our Color Me Egg Hunt will take place April 9th from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Everyone will be encouraged to wear white shirts. Volunteers will be participating in dousing the kids with run vibrant color. Kids will be running through three large inflatable obstacle courses. The kids will be climbing up the obstacle courses and going down slides all while finding yummy candy filled eggs. It will not be a race. We will have a section for young kids to be in a safe area and go at their own pace. Plastic sunglasses will be



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COLOR ME EGG HUNT

By Romy Sagastume, Next Gen Pastor

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provided to all the children. Along with the yummy candies that they will be receiving, we will also be having multiple food vendors join us that day.

As a church I pray we come together to shine on our community. We

would love for you to join us and bring your family, or if you would like to volunteer that

would be great! Candy donations are needed as well as face painters. We are excited for our first ever *COLOR ME EGG HUNT!!*



THE FOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

INVITES YOU

COLOR ME EGG HUNT

APRIL 9TH 2022

3:00PM-5:00PM

FOOD VENDORS

FACE PAINTING

BOUNCE HOUSES

www.thefountaincc.org

WEAR A
WHITE SHIRT
TO JOIN THE
FUN!!



WHAT IS A SALT COVENANT?

By Sam Sears

Today, we take salt for granted. It's easily purchased at the store, little packets of it are available at restaurants, and we use it to the point that doctors must urge us to monitor our salt consumption. In the ancient world, this was not the case. Salt's rare value made it serve as a form of payment for soldiers during the Roman Empire which gave us the modern word, "salary."¹ Before Rome, salt had more symbolic usages.

In ancient Near East cultures, like that of ancient Israel, salt's value made it useful in symbolic covenants. Covenants are religious agreements on par with political treaties. Imagine swearing on something deeply valuable to you or putting up an item as collateral for a loan. While the origin of salt covenants is not fully known, they predate Israel, and knowledge of the salt covenant is assumed in the biblical text. The first reference to salt as a part of the Old Testament Mosaic covenant is in Leviticus 2:13, which records, "Every grain offering of yours, moreover, you shall season with salt, so that the salt of the covenant of your God shall not be lacking from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt." (NASB 95) This adds a depth to the sacrifices that Israel made, making each one a renewal of their salt covenant, and adding expectations about their behavior to it, both to God and to one another.

Author K.C. Pillai focuses on providing cultural context for Bible passages to those of us who live in cultures that are geographically and chronologically far removed from the people who originally wrote and read the books of the Bible. He states, "In the East, the taking of salt is a pledge, a promise of fidelity. If I come to your house and eat with you food which has been seasoned with salt, I can never betray you or do you harm."² Forms of the covenant remain in the east, for

example, the word in Arabic for covenant and salt, are the same word.³ Meanwhile the western world has moved to paper contracts and can easily miss the importance of the use of salt as an element of a covenant in scripture.

While scripture records salt as part of continual offerings, each instance of salt in a covenant is intended to communicate an eternal, perpetual aspect of the covenant. Numbers 18:19 records "All the offerings of the holy gifts, which the sons of Israel offer to the Lord, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you, as a perpetual allotment. It is an everlasting covenant of salt before the Lord to you and your descendants with you." (NASB 95) While Israel would temporarily lose its land during the time of the Babylonian Exile, as well as after the fall of Rome in 70 A.D., God restored Israel based on His own role in the Old Testament covenants. While there are conditions some of covenants, God includes himself as one of the party members in many Old Testament covenants. This should be greatly comforting to us. While we may break our part of the covenant, He will not break his part.

Salt covenants, once identified, can be found in numerous places in the Bible. 2 Chronicles 13:5 speaks of a salt covenant between God and King David. Ezra 6:9 included salt in the dedication of the priests. Ezekiel 16:4 references a type of salt covenant that occurs at many births. Pillai suggests that a salt covenant of safety is implied between Jael and Sisera in chapter 4 of the book of Judges, showing how deep her deception of the evil commander was. This may have been meant to show how far she was willing to go in breaking cultural norms to protect her people. It does show that Sisera assumed he was safe, because of actions we would consider hospitality, but he saw as covenantal promises.

3 Verdicchio, Mike. *The Covenant of Salt, Confidence and Joy*. December 4, 2009. <https://confidenceandjoy.com/the-covenant-of-salt/>

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1 Harvey, Ian. During Roman times..., The Vintage News. August 22, 2016 <https://www.thevintagenews.com/2016/08/22/priority-roman-times-salt-worth-weight-gold-soldiers-sometimes-paid-salt-hence-word-salary/?chrome=1>

2 Pillai, K.C. *Light through an Eastern Window*. Martino Publishing. Mansfield Centre, CT. 2013

WHAT IS A SALT COVENANT?

By Sam Sears

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In the New Testament, we as Christians are called to be “Salt and Light.” (Matthew 15:13) While many are made aware that salt is a preservative, and this verse calls us to act as a preservative for the societies in which we find ourselves, what may be missed is how this connects to living in the New Covenant. By our nature, we are a part of the New Covenant, or as we call it often, the New Testament. We are demonstrating to the world what God is doing through Jesus, as we invite those around us to join in our new covenantal agreement with God. This covenant is with our King Jesus, who initiated it, but also with each other as members of one body (1 Corinthians 12) — His body on earth.

In modern day, Christians have reabsorbed various types of salt covenants into their life. Ancient eastern marriages involved a salt covenant, and some Christians have included this in modern marriage ceremonies. It would certainly be in line with the mutual sacrificial submission as outlined in Ephesians 5. Other churches have seen salt covenants, and their connection to hospitality and protecting one another, as an additional and optional covenant to undergo as church members. While the early church did not have formal membership in the way most western churches do today, they did intentionally gather together and shared meals (Acts 2:46.) In their culture, this was more than just enjoying each other’s company, but a pledge to protect and serve one another that they renewed frequently. In their culture, it would have been understood; but in ours, the importance of such actions as oath, might be lost.

Some see salt covenants as a thing of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament, only, and not appropriate to New Testament Christians. Jesus seems to condemn oath taking (Matthew 5:33-37) and his half-brother James seems to repeat him (James 5:12). The question

should be asked, what did Jesus and James mean, considering that they wrote from and within their own culture? What kind of oath taking and behavior is in view? If we affirm that all oaths are to be avoided, we run into practical problems: a marriage vow is an oath, for example. We are called to swear an oath when we testify in court. Any legally binding document could be seen as an oath.

Scripture gives us additional context for the words recorded in Matthew and James. Jesus submitted to a legal oath in Matthew 26:63. God took an oath in Hebrews 6:13. An overly literal view of Matthew 5 and James 5 would force us to conclude that Jesus disobeyed his own teaching. Given the numerous other positive examples of oaths taken in the Bible, including the salt covenants mentioned earlier that influenced the culture of Jesus, we should conclude what theologians Norman Geisler and Thomas Howe conclude, “Obviously there is a good sense of oath-taking and a bad sense.”⁴

We shouldn’t lightly pledge anything, nor should we pledge to do something by our power alone. If up to our own abilities, we would fail to be faithful at many, if not most, of the agreements we make. We should let our “yes be yes and our no be no” (Matthew 5:37 NASB 95), meaning that when we say we are going to do something, we do it. It doesn’t have to involve pledging, and dramatic appeals of what the cost might be if we break our agreement; rather, it should involve prayer and humility.

By nature, when we come together as believers and agree to work together, we would be participating in a covenant, at least according to the cultures in which the Bible was written. We may or may not under-

4 Geisler, Norman and Howe, Thomas. *The Big Book of Bible Difficulties*. Baker Books. Grand Rapids, Michigan. 1992

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WHAT IS A SALT COVENANT?

By Sam Sears

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stand the seriousness of that agreement. It may take time to understand having faithful depth in our lives together. We frequently translate the Greek word *Koinonia* as fellowship. However, what the 20 verses that use the word in the New Testament have in mind is closer to the bond soldiers experience in battle and families pursue despite disagreements and difficulties, rather than what our society sees as spending time together for fun. If we intentionally join a body of believers, we are to be salt together and, in a sense, salted together. If we break bread with one another and share salt, we must lean on God Himself to fulfill our obligations through the covenant (Philippians 2:13) and consider the other people in the covenant, their needs, their health, their well-being, as more important than our own (Philippians 2:3).

Do we see our times of fellowship and meals as mere fun, or a reaffirmation of our commitment to life as Christ's body together? To help understand the

gravity of such commitment, many churches have incorporated salt covenants into a meal among leadership, staff, or even whole congregations, giving individuals the option to enter into the agreement together, or not. If an agreement is made, it is used as a landmark moment in their spiritual walk together. What issues existed before the covenant must be put aside. When there is division after the covenant is taken, one member can be reminded that they shared salt with the whole group. When one is under attack, they can cry out for their brothers and sisters, who shared salt with them, to aid them, and they must come. This practice should help each Christian reflect on his or her own relationships. How seriously do we love our local church? How committed are we to protect and serve God's people? How committed are we to those we serve alongside?

Mark 9:50 "Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

Dear All,

We were surprised and welcomed home following Ann's surgery in San Francisco with a wonderful Yard sign from our "Fountain Church Family"!

We want to thank all of you for your expressions of love and concern with cards, visits, flowers, food, telephone calls and even a special "concert" from Chuck and Donna; most of all for your prayers during this time.

Ann is doing well. In the spirit of the Easter season and the risen Lord, we continue to feel richly blessed by God and all of you, our "Church family".

Sincerely,

Roger & Ann Johnson



April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <div>*Family Night</div> <div> Awana Youth Group Men's Bible Study Women's Bible Study </div> </div>					1 6:30 Men's Group	2 9:00 TKRL LifeWalk
3 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	4 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	5 10:00 Staff	6 6:00 *Family Night	7 10:00 Berean Watchmen	8 6:30 Men's Group	9 3:00 Color Me Egg Hunt 
10 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship 12:00 Orientation Class	11 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	12 10:00 Staff	13	14 9:00 Day of Prayer 10:00 Berean Watchmen	15 6:30 Men's Group 7:00 Good Friday Service	16
17 6:30 Sunrise 9:00 Worship 10:00 Egg Hunt 10:30 Worship 	18 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	19 10:00 Staff	20 6:00 *Family Night	21 10:00 Berean Watchmen	22 6:30 Men's Group	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	25 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	26 10:00 Staff	27 6:00 *Family Night	28 10:00 Berean Watchmen	29 6:30 Men's Group	30

BUILDING PROJECT

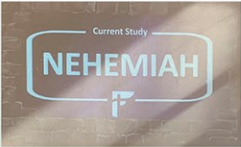
By Sam Sears

P R O J E C T

CENTERED VISION




Easy to open and close curtains can maintain our view of the Courtyard.




Current Study
NEHEMIAH

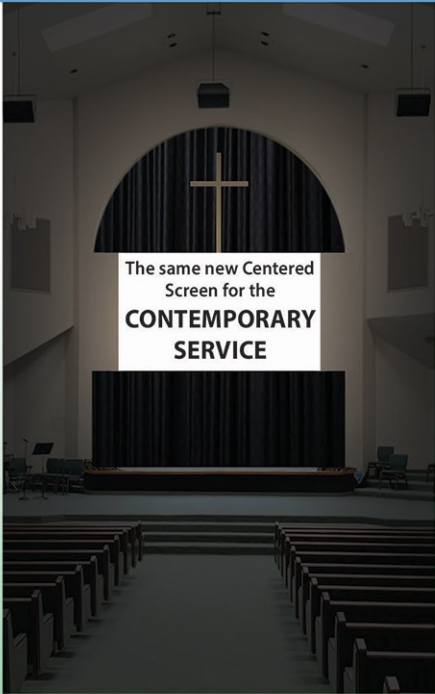
Help prevent washed out images on sunny days.



Help eliminate glare and reflections at night. The circles show people in the pews reflected on the glass.




A new Centered Screen for the
CLASSIC SERVICE
(eventually LED)



The same new Centered Screen for the
CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

Our budget for this project is \$50,000. But because we have established a **Gift Matching Fund**, your **GIFT** will be **DOUBLED!** (\$100 = \$200, \$500 = \$1,000)



\$50,000
\$40,000
\$30,000
\$20,000
\$10,000

**The design, fabrics and colors shown in these computer images may need to be adjusted as the project is finalized.

We desire to meet people where they, just as children enter a sanctuary seeing kids just like them Jesus did with the people He encountered, and we worshipping on the centralized screen.

We also desire to reduce the impact of glare during nighttime special services, like the Christmas eve service, or the Tulare King Right to life Roe V. Wade movie night where many community members enter our church the first time. This means restoring a past function that our window had, which was being able to be closed by curtains.

As we meet people where they are, we continue to be committed to two different types of services. One brighter and more traditional and one that better communicates with the currently unchurched and our own younger people. Barna research, as well as Disciple Heritage Fellowship, and local research have helped inform us what God is using to reach people.

Our goal is to improve the quality of the image projected on the wall and make space for an eventual LED wall screen. That type of screen has a longer life than projectors and can be clearly seen even in the brightest of services. It will be of benefit to both services as well as special events as a movie screen. It can also serve as an impactful introduction to Awana as

“Centered Vision.”

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BUILDING PROJECT

By Sam Sears

Feedback from the early 2021 congregational survey also informed our plans. For the classic service, both the trees and our beautiful Fountain will be visible, in the contemporary service we will be able to make the sanctuary more contemplative. Using a flip of a switch we can maximize the time people can enjoy our Fountain, while also better controlling lighting on sunny days and glare issues from the glass. We will still be calling on you for more feedback, as we select the color of the curtains and how we might tie that into the wall in a way that works best all.

Lots of prayer, planning, and thought have gone into selecting the most forward thinking, affordable and needed project to get us started. I'm thankful for the staff and Elders, and specifically: Jeri Eubanks, Larry Lewis, and Elders Roger Johnson and Tom Lewis for helping craft this plan.

It's going to take all of us to raise the necessary funds, but we are excited to announce a MATCHING FUND. \$25,000 dollars from the church Solomon fund will be used to match individual donations to help us reach our goal. You can donate by writing "Special building project" on the memo line or by selection the "special building project" option in the menu for our online giving, which can be find by clicking the blue don't on the lower left-hand corner of our website. We will also be having another church yard sale and continue to sale Fountain apparel.

I hope that as we come together on this project, that it will give us another reason to invite others to see what God is doing here at the Fountain. I think it can build momentum towards additional future projects and serves some practical purposes, but the primary goal though is being more effective at transforming lives, through our pursuit of depth in, love, life, and truth. This project helps will help us do that, to God's Glory.

Easter Events @ The Fountain

COLOR ME EGG HUNT

Sat. April 9 • 3 PM



Food Vendors
Face Painting
Bounce Houses



thefountaincc.org
or call (559) 732-6623

Palm Sunday - April 10

Classic Service @ 9 AM

Contemporary Service @ 10:30 AM

Day of Prayer - Thursday, April 14

The sanctuary will be open for personal prayer between 9 AM and 5 PM, with live piano music from 4 – 5 PM.

Good Friday - April 15 - 7 PM

You are invited to join us for a SPECIAL BILINGUAL service, as we join with our friends from the ELIM Church. We will sing together (in English and Spanish), read God's Word together and share in a time of Communion.

Don't miss this unique service!

Easter Sunday - April 17

Sunrise Service @ 6:30 AM

Carrie Guy will lead our sunrise service.

Classic Service @ 9 AM

Special egg hunt BETWEEN THE SERVICES for kids!

Contemporary Service @ 10:30 AM

PRAYER CONCERNS

April 2022

Pray for the desire and opportunity to effectively share your faith! Our Nation and Leaders. Teachers & Students in Visalia. Our Brothers & Sisters at Elim.

Health: Ana Morales, Brad Sears, Bonnie Henson, Donna Eastin, Heather Smith, Jean Lamb, Jeff Rolph, JoAnne Jordan, Kevin Guy, Marilee Douglass, Mary Stemkoski, Pam Shattuck, Fred Wilder, Sandy Zinger

Cancer: Ann Johnson, Bill Morland, David Thomas, Jiggy Greene, Jim Shackelford, Joe Grant, Keith Moore, Mike Gunning, Olly Ajluni, Sandra Campbell, Shannan Ajluni

Other Needs: Nina Suttles (Vision)

Military: Andie Richwine – Marine, Brett Boland – Virginia, Michael Reid – San Diego, CA, Preston Correa – Marine, Tyler Richwine – Marine

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April 2022

Rory Sanchez.....	2	Sheila Ronk.....	20
Michael Rasmussen	4	Dawltyn Stowers	21
Betty Guzman	8	Gwen Ritter	25
Tom Lewis	8	Talan Conrad	27
Kevin Turl	8	Ryleigh Stowers.....	27
Susan Leary	9	Rosalinda Rodriguez.....	28
Samuel Rodriguez	9	MaKenzee Stowers	28
Shannan Ajluni	12	Robert Ajluni	30
Owen Gunning	15		
Pamela Scott	15		
Ryan Ritter	16		
Krista Romer	18		
Leliana Sears	19		
		Kevin & Kay Ray	24

Happy Anniversary!

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

March 2022

Average In Person Attendance

77

Total Giving

\$ 21,179.72

Reminder:

We are in the process of upgrading our website. While this will make some much needed improvements it also entails some changes that will affect those of you who are giving online. These changes will also reduce the Fountain's expenses for the giving platform that we are using.

We need to make sure those of you who give online are aware that:

- You will now be covering the typical \$0.25 fee for ACH donations in the near future.
- And you will be receiving receipts from hello@nucleus.church now, not hello@rebelgive.com
- You can now access your personal giving account at <https://my.nucleus.church> using the exact same username/password as you did before for RebelGive. Please, save this new login for future use!

WEST COAST MENNONITE MEN'S CHORUS 2022



Enjoy the musical expression of
faith & harmony
from the 100-voice
Mennonite Men's Chorus.



2022 CONCERT SCHEDULE

MARCH 26, 2022, 6:00 PM

Shaghoian Performing Arts Center, 2770 E International Ave, Fresno

APRIL 10, 2022, 6:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church, 4500 Buena Vista Rd, Bakersfield

APRIL 24, 2020, 6:00 PM

Reedley MB Church, 1326 L St., Reedley

MAY 1, 2022, 6:00 PM

Grace Bible Church, 100 Rodeo Dr, Arroyo Grande

** Chris Stone for info 559.280.7847*

A freewill offering will be received for Mennonite Disaster Service

For more information, please visit www.wcmmc.com



The Fountain
1023 N Chinowth St
Visalia, CA 93291

HE IS RISEN



The
Fountain



April
17th



6:30 sunrise
9:00 classic
10:30 modern

THE FOUNTAIN • 1023 N. Chinowth, Visalia CA 93291

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