

THE FOUNTAIN

CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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Matthew 5:9

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

MONUMENTAL GOD!

Romy Sagastume



"Your unfailing love will last forever." Psalm 89:2
Kids camp was truly an outpouring of God's love. Coming out of two years where fear overtook so many of us, being free to experience the true love of God that cancels all fear was absolutely beautiful. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18 Going into Kids Camp this year God put the urgency in my heart for salvation. Monumental God was the perfect theme for ministering who God really is. Everyday all the volunteers gathered together to pray asking for mercy, love and salvation.

Helping kids experience Jesus' love was our everyday goal. Every volunteer was an important part of making that happen. We were the hands and heart of God, showing kids his vast and unchanging love for each of them. Kids explored the vastness of God's power and the depth of His love for each of them. We enjoyed a week full of faith discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventure that helped minister an encounter with God. It is important to teach our children at a young age that it is not about a religion but about a true relationship with our creator and lover of our soul. The reality of God's love gained new meaning and relevance to their everyday lives.



At Monumental kids camp, kids learned one important Bible point each day. Instead of trying to teach kids more than they can remember or apply, Monumental focused on one key biblical concept. Key points like God loves you no matter what, God is with you everywhere, God is in charge, God is stronger than anything and God is surprising. The Bible points were reinforced daily through Bible adventures, key Bible verses, songs, snacks, and hands-on activities that helped explore God's greatness. Kids who attend our church regularly enjoyed experiencing important truths in fresh new ways. We were blessed to have welcomed some new neighborhood kids who came, and they were able

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MONUMENTAL GOD!

Romy Sagastume



to dive into the Bible right away.

were able to discover that we can see God in things like of Kids Camp blessed and excited for next year. scripture, people, circumstances, and nature.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8

It was my desire that kids leave our program with a deeper, more meaningful relationship

with Jesus. At Monumental, we strive to provide a solid This year we introduced a new aspect to the foundation for their lives, built on Bible truths about program, God sightings. God hasn't retired. He's as God's love. Kids experienced Bible stories in powerful, busy now as he's ever been. But until you see that with life-changing ways. We did want children to not only your own eyes, it's tough to have a vibrant faith. God hear about God's love but to be able to see it, touch it, can seem distant or impersonal. God is active in our sing it, taste it, and put it into action through our new everyday lives—and we can learn to look. We can make model of God sightings. Most importantly, children it a habit to keep an eye out for the daily overwhelming learned that because Jesus loves us, he came to die for evidence that God is doing great things all around us. our sins and make a way for us to live with God forever. God Sightings are everyday clues that God is present, On our last night, I invited up to the alter those kids passionate, and powerful. A God sighting is simply an that wanted to give their life to Jesus. Fourteen kids acknowledgment that God has done something. It's giv- accepted Christ that night, including my son Elim. It ing God credit where credit is due. It's developing a was such a powerful moment that brought me to tears. God-focused view and a grateful heart. Kids and adults The Lord's presence was evidently moving. I came out



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A SUNDAY SUNDAE!

Chuck Romer

supper. I looked at my wife Donna and asked, "How Church... as well as worship songs from other languages about some ice cream?" She was headed out the door (Spanish, French, German, etc.). to the car before I could even say "Baskin-Robbins".



there were so many other flavors calling my name... to the Lord..." even some new ones that I might try someday.

out at our church family one Sunday morning and al songs... but it seems that Paul felt all three types asked, "How about some hymns and praise songs to- should be included. More important than style was that day?"

the pew rack. Others might pick up their cell phone to blessings. find a youtube video or a scripture song. Others would and times in life.

I'm sure you also realize that the number of Chris- Month". tian songs goes far beyond just "31 flavors." Our hymhas 591 songs.

an explosion of new Christian music. CCLI, the company send you a FREE gift of music in return. that provides our license to live stream online and project song texts on the wall, has identified more than seven million English songs that are used in evangelical churches today – and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

It was a hot summer night, and we had just finished CCLI has just begun to add music for use in the Catholic

CCLI keeps great records on how often songs are sung. I checked out their "Top 10" list this past week, and the most frequently sung song in recent months was "Goodness of God" - a song written in 2018 that we've sung in both the Classic and Contemporary services. Out of their list of the "Top 10 Songs", we've sung at least four other titles as well.

I recently did a survey of the closing songs we've used in the Classic Service over the past 12 months. I discovered we've sung 38 different songs to close the service. I'm certain that those 38 weren't ALL in your list of favorite songs – but I hope at least a few of them were. The same is true for communion songs – as we've used more than 25 different songs during communion in the last 12 months.

I don't think diversity in musical styles is just a re-A few minutes later we were giving our orders to cent phenomenon. The Apostle Paul hints at this in the young faces behind the counter. Donna's favorite is chapter 5 of his letter to the Ephesians, as he wrote "... Pralines and Cream, while I often choose a fruit sherbet speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiror Cookies and Cream with some fudge topping. But itual songs, singing and making melody with your heart

I don't know the musical style that made hymns This experience got me thinking... what if I looked different from psalms... or psalms different from spiritusinging would come from our hearts and minds in wor-Some of us would probably grab the hymnal out of ship... and that we would be thankful for all of God's

Burt Baskin and Irv Robbins founded their ice cream just lean back and search their memory for a favorite chain more than 75 years ago. They wanted to offer 31 song from decades past. We all have a few favorite flavors of ice cream – a different flavor for every day of worship songs... and they come from different places the month. I think I might have to try Grilled Peaches 'n Cream next time... it was a recent "New Flavor of the

Maybe you and I should do the same with our pernal, Hymns for the Living Church, published in 1972, sonal worship songs... and create a list of 31 songs one song of praise for each day of the month. If you But since that hymnal's publication, there has been create that list and share it with me, I'd be honored to

WHAT "HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER" AND A PICKUP LINE TAUGHT ME ABOUT CHURCH

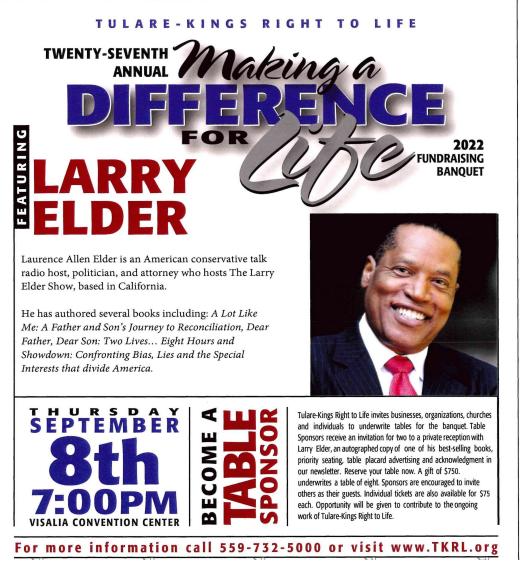
Sam B. Sears

My brother loved the show "How I Met Your started. Mother" long before I ever gave it a shot. He eventually convinced Heather and me to give it a shot for the cast was likeable, even if they didn't follow a Christian next thing we watched in our limited tv time after the lifestyle. It had a famously controversial ending, and kids went to bed. He did so by explaining a running gag for that, and because they aren't Christians in the on the show, which ultimately has me thinking about show, I can't give it a blanket recommendation, but church recently.

Early in the show, the character Barney Stinson brothers did the same thing for a brief time when he get a conversation going. was single, and he told me it did get conversations

The show ended up being pretty funny, and the there is one idea I'd like for you to try.

What if, when you see someone new in our would try to help his friend, Ted Mosby, by saying "Hi" church, you not only introduce yourself, but you look to a woman, and then asking, "Have you met Ted?" Ted around, see someone else you know and ask the new was single and a bit shy, and this was Barney's way of person, "Have you met my friend, ?" Suddenly helping him meet perspective dates. A friend of my they know the names of two people, and you may just



PRAYER CONCERNS

August 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.

<u>Health</u>: Ana Morales, Brad Sears, Bonnie Henson, Donna Eastin, Heather Smith, Jean Lamb, Jeff Rolph, Jeremy Holley, JoAnne Jordan, Kevin Guy, Kevin Ray (DHF pastor), Marilee Douglass, Mary Stemkoski, Pam Shattuck, Fred Wilder, Sandy Zinger

<u>Cancer</u>: Ann Johnson, Bill Morland, David Thomas, David Welch, Janet Hagan, Jim Shackleford, Joe Grant, Keith Moore, Mike Gunning, Olly Ajluni, Sandra Campbell, Shannan Ajluni

Other Needs: Nina Suttles (Vision)

<u>Military</u>: Brett Boland – Virginia, Michael Reid – San Diego, CA, Preston Correa – Marine, Tyler Richwine – Marine

<u>Missionaries</u>: some of our missionaries cannot be listed for their safety.

Nationally Based Global Mission Organizations:
Adolfo Ibarra, Crosslink Development International,
Central Missionary Clearinghouse, Soaring for Christ,
Radical Truth, Maven, Gideons International, Our
Daily Bread Ministries, Jews for Jesus, Pioneers,
Team Expansion

<u>Local Ministries</u>: Care Pregnancy Center, Good News Jail Ministry, Hands in the Community, Love In the Name of Christ, Stephen Ministries, Tulare Kings Right to Life, Turning Point, Visalia Rescue Mission, Visalia Senior Housing

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

August 2022

Joseph Ajluni	3
Carol Stone	3
Traci Yale	4
Heather Ritter	6
Buz Southard	7
Preston Correa12	2
Jessica Parker13	3
Lorraine Turl 13	3
Candice Ramsey10	6
Laura Gunning21	1
Carlos Rojas22	1
Patrick Hogan22	2

Aiden Ray	26
Chuck Romer	27
Neoma Cowing	30



Buz & Donna Southard	11
Wayne & Sue Geis	30

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

July 2022

Average In Person Attendance

Total Giving

86

\$ 15,850.82

WHAT DOES GOD WANT IN A WORSHIP SERVICE?

Sam Sears

terest in combining worship services again. After com- disciples meeting daily and sharing meals. They would pleting Canoeing the Mountains, by Tod Bolsinger, I've meet everywhere from bright outdoors to dark onespent time in prayer again regarding our current strate- room houses lit only by a single or a few candles. gy. The way that the author talked about unity and be- Church today usually includes some type of musical ing willing to try different strategies as we are in new worship, and that, too, has varied throughout history, territory in this post- quarantine world gave me things but what was it like in the earliest church? to ponder. The way he records Lewis and Clark giving a voice to a native American mother and a slave spoke to church services included more musical variety than some of the same concerns as to why we added a sec- many services today. Colossians 3:16 instructs, "Let the ond service in the first place, making sure new voices word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom felt heard, and learning from them in how best to reach teaching and admonishing one another with psalms new people around us, but those two unusual voices and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulwere not a party of their own, but their votes wel- ness in your hearts to God." Paul also wrote to the comed into the existing party.

teers step up, new families attending, and others be- with your heart to the Lord;" (Ephesians 5:19) Here the coming more frequent participants, and the classic ser- word "hymn" isn't referencing what is a newer genre of vice has seen some growth as well, but we have run music, but instead a general religious song and it seems into unforeseen challenges in both. Some of families to be distinct from what to them would be the older have moved, even new people brought in by the new songs, the psalms. service.

least if we are going to try to open it in both services. of order and intelligibility to the Corinthians (1 Corinthi-The time between services is proving to not be enough ans 14). So, while the gathering is primarily for believto adequately reset and prepare, but a longer time in ers, we should not make unnecessary barriers to newbetween service would be a strain on children's volun- comers, as we want them to join us. teers as well, as they would be needed to take care of some of the staff and volunteer's children's as they ble. James 3:17 (KJV) says, "But the wisdom that is prepped to lead worship.

service, I have been challenged by the question, "What fied towards God and about his mission. does God want in a worship service?"

spending time with one another. We often call this

For a few months, there has been renewed in- "Doing life together" today. Acts 2:46 records the early

Turning to Scripture, we see that the earliest Ephesians, "speaking to one another in psalms and The contemporary service has seen new volun- hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody

Paul also wrote to the Colossians, "Conduct We need to reopen the nursery, which is an yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the amazing problem, but we are short on volunteers, at most of the opportunity." (Col 4:5) as well as speaking

Lastly, there was an expectation of being flexifrom above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing We went to two services because of musical to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality preferences, lighting preferences, and other style and without hypocrisy." I have been made to wonder, if differences. Some of the things we wanted to incorpo- we could better promote the unity that we see in Acts rate into a more casual, contemporary service were by giving the opportunity to be "willing to yield?" The forced on both services by COVID, and our needs have Bible is clear about serving one another and being in changed. Rather than ask what individuals want in a unity; Acts shows the amazing impact of a church uni-

I'm still committed to honor our legacy, making Any church service has multiple elements. Be- sure that we ensure that both old and young feel valcause we are "transformed by the renewing of our ued and that they can hear worship songs to which mind" (Romans 12:2) teaching the Bible is a key part of they can connect. I'm also committed to change to the service. A service should also include fellowship, make sure we can best communicate to an unchurched that word for relational friendship and interaction used world that is increasingly different than the church culspecifically for Christians who are encouraging and ture. We want to meet the those outside of regular

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WHAT DOES GOD WANT IN A WORSHIP SERVICE?

Sam Sears

the way.

only one service pop up again, I worried that some, duce glare on the glass for our online viewers by leavconsciously or unconsciously, were ultimately wanting ing the lights off, so that means the lights will stay off. only the service that best matched their preference. As it came up a few more times, I could hear some area because we will have the ability to close curtains quotes from Canoeing the Mountains echo in my head. for late night or for youth-minded events; a centered "Keep going, learn as you go, and don't stop, no matter screen will be easier to see and be forward-thinking to what." I have pondered, about we have learned by hav- an eventual LED screen which would be bright and ing two services. I also think of another Tod Bolsinger clearly seen even on the brightest of days. quote from Canoeing the Mountains and that is, "The mission trumps." The mission to spread the Gospel, You will probably hear some songs that aren't your trumps our personal preferences; the mission to be uni- preference, but that someone else near you will be fied with each other and with Christ, trumps our per- blessed by. You may not like the lighting as much as if it sonal preferences. Since part of the mission is unity, I was brighter or darker, but you will see more folks in opened up to how another try at a truly multigenera- pews. We will be able to open the nursery and we will tional, and outreach friendly, single service would look be able to have more healthy rotations in volunteer like.

vices, and once we began talking among the staff and them ability to serve others by putting the needs of praying, we started hammering out some details. We others before their own (even if it's just for a couple of then asked the Elders to pray, and then spent time dis-songs). I also think that you might meet some lovely cussing it at the Elder council.

Starting Sept. 11th, we are going to try one you haven't met yet! month of only one service, @ 10:30 with, Chuck and worked out, but at least one hymn, or The Lord's Prayer we seek what's best for the entire church.

fellowship where they are, as much as possible, and will be sung every week, as well as some of our younger bring them in, calling them into depth; and while the voices stepping forward at the beginning of a service to Word is unchanging, we don't want mere style to get in make a solid first impression for younger and new families. The curtain will be gone. We can't get it as dark as When I first heard the question about having many appreciate worship, but we have managed to re-

We still will work towards that center screen

This will be a trial, and we are open to feedback. spots. If we do this right, I think we can mature as we Romy was already a voice for combining the ser- introduce people to a wider spectrum of music and give folks who had been attending the other service that

This is a big step for our church, so I'd ask that Romy working together. The finer details are still being you pray with me and our leadership and volunteers as

BEING THE CHURCH, IN ECONOMICALLY HARD TIMES

Sam Sears

Thank you. I must begin with thanks to you, and thanks to God. God has not only preserved our church faithfully give financially and to volunteer your time body through COVID and the associated lockdown, but and talents. Without you, we wouldn't have the buildalso continues to preserve us through growing econom- ing to worship in, we couldn't equip missionaries ic turmoil that appears to be heading into an official around the world, nor would we have staff to serve you God equips his workers to do ministry and the community. through his own people. God isn't done with our ministry, with its over 165 year history, nor is He done with do invite you to give as an act of thankfulness and obeyou; but what we have begun to experience is new for dience to God and to equip The Fountain for the minis-

talk with other pastors, I feel overwhelmingly blessed ognize the truths contained in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, to serve with you and to see your clear heart for the which says "Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will work of Christ. Even with several special large offerings also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will lies moving out of state, and others impacted by medi- purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsures. Where we are beginning to see impact is in ris- box in our lobby. ing costs and no longer having the large renter that we had last year in the Ark church.

address questions that are already being asked.

What does this mean for the church?

We are still working towards improvements, and we shipping as believers, and keep serving together. have upgraded a lot of our tech over the past few most effectively glorifies Him.

We want to thank those of you who continue to

If you are not giving, or feel led to give more, we many of us. All of us are experiencing rising prices and try we do. If you are unable to give, or give as much as inflation as individuals, and the church is impacted, too. you desire to, we understand. What you give is be-As I look at statistics from other churches and tween you and God. It is a blessing to give, and we recfor missionaries, a special building project, some fami- also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has cal issues, our general giving is only down about \$500. sion, for God loves a cheerful giver." If you aren't cur-In comparison with others, we are blessed, as churches rently giving, you can do so by clicking the blue icon in across the U.S. are facing hardship, cuts, and even clo- the lower left corner of our website, or by giving in a

I grew up poor, and I've seen over requests be a barrier to people. There is the perception among many I'm writing this to be transparent with you — that "Churches just want your money." Sadly, that not to guilt you or to scare you — in anticipation that seems true of some churches, and some people do take prices will continue to rise and will lead to further im- advantage of people by guilting them into giving what pact on the church and members of our body. I want to they don't have. We want transformed lives. We want drinking living water from The Fountain, regardless of what they are giving. We won't be what the Bible calls Strategically, I don't plan on asking for addition- "respecters of persons" and target wealthy people to al special gifts for our missionaries. We already have get more money. I want people to learn about and global impact through our missionaries, and I don't know Jesus, even if they can't contribute financially to want us to forget that Visalia is our primary mission. I won't be doing a series of emotionally field. We have passed some of our biggest expenses in manipulative sermons on finances. I won't lie and tell the year, but June and July are traditionally our two you that giving to God guarantees some sort of proslowest giving months, with also the highest electric perity. Instead, I'll keep teaching the Bible chapter by bills. While we are watching our spending more closely, chapter, verse by verse, and, yes, finances and giving to our budget was based on more purchasing power than God do come up in Luke. We will keep praying, keep our dollars now have, given an over 9% inflation rate. sharing the good news of Jesus to the lost, keep fellow-

Lastly, I sometimes hear that "young people years, but we will be pausing big purchases. We will don't give as much," and I want to respond to that. On strive to be what the Bible calls "Good Stewards," be- one hand, I'm not sure that's true. They may not genercause we recognize that all that is given to the church ally give financial gifts in the same amount, but they belongs to God and should be used wisely in a way that often volunteer for the most intense duties, like Kids

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BEING THE CHURCH, IN ECONOMICALLY HARD TIMES

Sam Sears

Camp, and often have more non-Christian friends to and, in connection with Love INC, we give out food to share the Gospel with and invite to church. Their gifts those in need. Anyone can contribute to our food panare different, and we should worry less about what oth-try, and those inside the church can benefit, too. ers are giving or how they are serving, and more about how we are serving our Lord. On the other hand, it's seem wise to have some extra groceries and extra toioften said out of concern, and as I admitted, financially letries in the future. In the past, this wasn't "prepping," they do generally give less. While I seldom think people it was just common sense. While I didn't learn the skill, who say "young people don't give as much" are trying many in my family before canned fruits and vegetables to communicate that we shouldn't focus or reach out from their own gardens, so that if there would be hard to young people, it can sometimes feel like it's coming times in the future, they had food. from a place of discouragement or concern for the future. My favorite response to the comment is, "that's too. Jesus, in Matthew 6:20 tells us, "But store up for true, so we need to reach more of them!" That's our yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth goal, anyway! To reach more people for Jesus — and if nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or we do that, God will keep us about His business.

What does this mean for Individuals?

Short answer: yes. In a conversational setting, I might can't take it with us! It likely won't even last the rest of ask, "What do you mean by prepping?" Ultimately, we our lives and may get broken or stolen. trust in the Lord as our means of salvation and for and provide for our family. Providing for our family is so increase. important Paul tells this to Timothy "But if anyone does unbeliever." (1 Tim 5:8)

have to others. So regardless of what we might gather, est challenge. be prepared to share. We do have a church food pantry

I don't know what the future holds. It does

God calls us to be good stewards as individuals, steal." This both calls us to use our blessings and our time in a way that glorifies God, which works out for us, I get asked point blank, "Can Christians prep?" and affirms the futility of chasing things in this life. We

As individuals, it may be more important than it peace, and I can see prepping become idolatry if a per- has been in a long time to make sure that we don't let son overvalues it and focuses on physical security vs. our desires for things we can't really afford distract us spiritual health and salvation. For some, it could also from God. Recent reports have shown that credit card become a temptation to worry. Matthew 6 makes it debt is rising sharply, and that concerns me. The Bible clear that we shouldn't worry, but trust in God; howev- warns us to avoid debt, because we "can't serve two er, worry is not the same thing as using wisdom to plan masters" (Matthew 6:24) The impact of that debt may

In closing, I recommend reading Matthew 25 not provide for his own, and especially for those of his and taking the lesson of the parable of talents to heart. household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an Please pray for all the leaders, from local to global, who impact our economy, and for those who vote for them, Some "preppers" envision life in a bunker, hid- as well as for personal wisdom for yourselves, loved den from the world, but God calls us to give what we ones, and, of course, our church, as we all face this lat-

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:40 Prayer Warriors	2 10:00 Staff	3	4 10:00 Berean Watchmen	5 6:30 Men's Group	6
7 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	8 10:40 Prayer Warriors	9 10:00 Staff	10	11 10:00 Berean Watchmen	12 6:30 Men's Group	13
14 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	15 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	16 10:00 Staff	17 6:00 *Family Night	18 10:00 Berean Watchmen	19 6:30 Men's Group	20
21 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	23 10:00 Staff	24 6:00 *Family Night	25 10:00 Berean Watchmen	26 6:30 Men's Group	27
28 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	30 10:00 Staff	31 6:00 *Family Night	*Family Night	Children's Youth Grou Men's Bibl Women's	nb





Stop by our website for more information on Bible Studies and coming events at www.thefountaincc.org