



# THE FOUNTAIN

CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**Office Hours:**

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

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## **Deuteronomy 5:16**

“Honor your father and your **mother**, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

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# HIS GREAT COMMISSION—OUR MISSION

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Sam Sears

*Matthew 28:16-20 “When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

The church, all believers who have chosen to truly follow our risen Lord and Savior, has been given a mission. We are to spread the Gospel, the Good News : Jesus is King. Thankfully a very forgiving King. God sent His Son, Jesus, to reconcile us to Him. We are to engage folks and let them know that whosoever believes in and continues to trust Him will have their sins forgiven and receive salvation, eternal life with Him.

Our mission is not just to create awareness, but to teach people how to live in accordance with the teachings and commands of the King of Kings. The Bible doesn't give explicit instructions on how best to accomplish that mission, and individual fellowships of believers have tried various methods, strategies, and programs through the years, usually with an eye to their own culture and giftings. An existing focus on Organic Outreach was one of the things that first drew me here to The Fountain.

Most of the world was dramatically affected by Covid, and as we emerge from the fear mentality and associated lockdowns, we find ourselves in a very different society from just a few short years ago. Churches especially are facing new challenges from a sluggish economy and a culture that is increasingly either apathetic or hostile.

The Fountain also has been experiencing a season of change, and in addition to seeking God's wisdom as to the best way to adapt, we invited some experienced Pastors from Disciple Heritage Fellowship at the beginning of this year to give us a Spiritual Health Assessment. One of several suggestions adopted was to rework our mission statement so that our whole fellowship is continually reminded, in a relevant and memorable way, to carry out Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28.

Our vision statement remains the same: **To be a source of living water to Visalia and beyond.** This

speaks to where we want to go and who we want to be. We have a vision for the Fountain to grow, to be full of active volunteers who serve one another and serve our community in a variety of ways.

Like the woman at the well who walked away changed, we desire to connect people with the living water of Jesus and see deep changes in their lives. To accomplish that goal, we want our entire church family to be willing, and to develop the knowledge and ability to justify and support our faith. We all should be able to engage with others, especially non-believers, as Peter writes in his 2nd letter, “Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; “ (1 Peter 3:5)

Our new mission statement:

**ENGAGE EQUIP EMPOWER**

It has been said that even the kids in the children's ministry should be able to memorize a church's mission statement. We want to create a shared set of ideas and reminders that keep the whole body of believers on the same page and going in the same direction, encouraging one another in the process.

Let's look at each point.

**ENGAGE:** We no longer live in a culture where most people go to church or even believe in God. Recent polls show over 50% of Tulare County identify as having “no religious affiliation.” If we sit in the church and wait for our neighbors to come to us, we aren't taking Jesus' commission seriously. Yes, when they do show up, we want to connect with them in the best way possible so that they stay open to hearing that life-saving Gospel message, but we also need to engage the ideas of our culture, find some sort of involvement in the community, and be active in reaching out to our neighbors, friends, family, and co-workers. Jesus called us to be salt and light. That requires interacting with non-Christians around us.

**EQUIP:** In Matthew 28 Jesus calls his current followers to make more disciples and to teach them to observe His commandments. Sometimes we behave as if Jesus simply said, “Get everyone saved.” Jesus desires more than a one-time decision. He wants people who



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are growing in Him throughout their whole lives. We can't separate salvation from discipleship. True salvation leads to the service of discipleship.

Once someone is following Jesus as their King, is counting on Him to pay the price of their sins and is looking to Him for the forgiveness of all their accidental and intentional wrongdoing, it's up to us to teach them how to be more Christlike. The Fountain will continue to value and provide in-depth Bible studies, intending to solidify faith and to equip Christians with truth and skills to glorify God in their daily lives.

**EMPOWER:** Once equipped with Bible knowledge and a grounding in the faith, believers, will hopefully

want to use some of their time and talents for the Kingdom, springboarding from training to service. This may mean filling a previously unmet need, creating a new volunteer role, or giving an experienced volunteer a chance to switch gears to something else. Ultimately, I am praying for a large, dedicated team working together in harmony, with everyone's gifts being put to use glorifying God.

As we strive to answer Jesus' Great Commission, we intend to **ENGAGE, EQUIP, AND EMPOWER**, envisioning becoming **a source of living water to Visalia and beyond.**

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## A BITTER SWEET GOODBYE

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We said goodbye to Romy Sagastume at the end of April. She has been led to an exciting new chapter in her life and as she goes we are both saddened to see her go and excited to see what God has in store for her!

Please pray God's blessings on her and whoever He has in mind to be our next Worship Leader here at The Fountain.

Change is always difficult but we know God is in control and has something wonderful in store for all!

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# PRAYER CONCERNS

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May 2023

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, Bonnie Henson, Donna Eastin, Fred Wilder, Heather Smith, Jason McKaughan, Jean Lamb, JoAnne Jordan, Jordan Lewis, Kevin Guy, Kevin Ray (DHF pastor), Marilee Douglass, Pam Shattuck, Steven Hall, Tim Sears

**Cancer:** Bill Morland, Clay Jones, David Thomas, David Welch, Joe Grant, Keith Moore, Mike Gunning, Olly Ajluni, Randy Gurule, Sandra Campbell, Shannan Ajluni

**Other Needs:** Nina Suttles (Vision)

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

**Missionaries:** 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

**Local Ministries:** 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

**Ukrainian Individuals in danger:** Michael, Andrew, Alex, and Angela. (Last names withheld for safety.)

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# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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May 2023

Vincent Cheng.....	1
Oliver Ajluni .....	5
Kelli Stowers .....	8
Ignacio Garcia .....	11
Reagan Gunning.....	14
Lisa Brooks .....	15
Evelyn Hardisty .....	15
Kerrell Lewis.....	20
Benjamin Romer .....	23
Emerson Gunning .....	26

*Happy Anniversary!*

Tim & June Glick.....	7
Ryan & Heather Ritter.....	11
Tom & Kerrell Lewis.....	12
Jim & Margie Barlogio.....	15
Keith & Marcia Moore .....	23

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# ATTENDANCE & GIVING

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April 2023

Average In Person Attendance

78

Total Giving

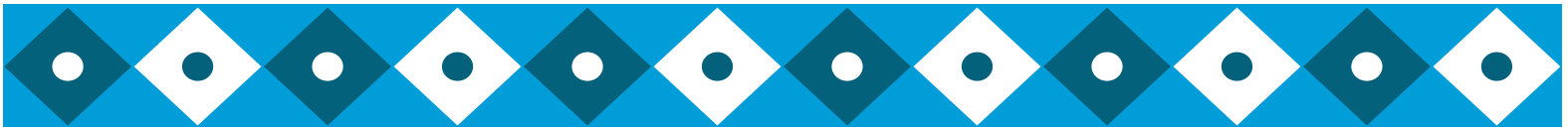
\$ 13,627.50

# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	2 10:00 Staff	3  6:00 Family Night	4 10:00 Berean Watchmen	5 6:30 Men's Group	6
7 10:30 Worship	8 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	9 10:00 Staff	10  6:00 Family Night	11 10:00 Berean Watchmen	12 6:30 Men's Group	13
14 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 10:30 Worship	22 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 10:30 Worship	29 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	30 10:00 Staff	31  6:00 Family Night	<div> *Family Night <div> Children's classes  Youth Group  Men's Bible Study  Women's Bible Study </div> </div>		



The Fountain  
1023 N Chinowth St  
Visalia, CA 93291



## ***Coming Events***

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***Worship - 10:30 am each Sunday***

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Stop by our website for more information on Bible Studies  
and coming events at [www.thefountaincc.org](http://www.thefountaincc.org)