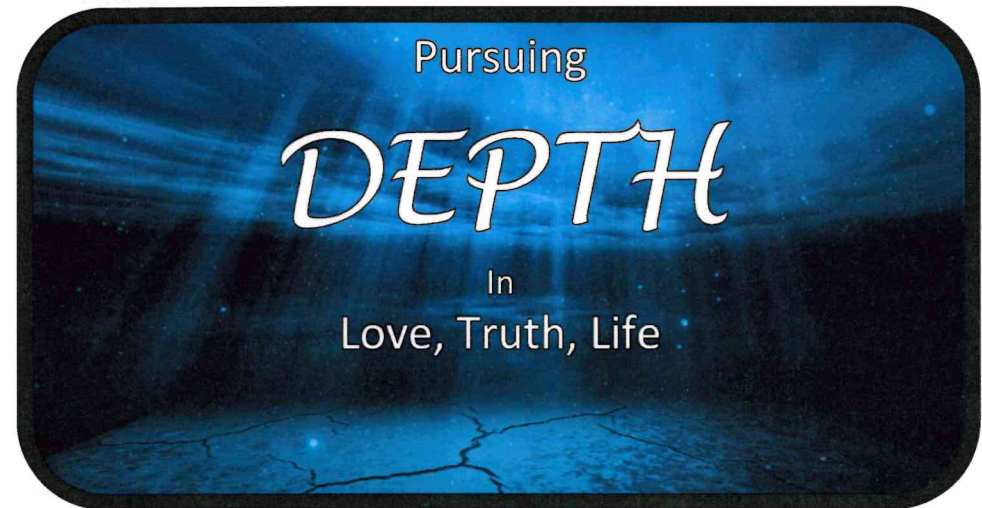




**THE  
FOUNTAIN  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**

[www.thefountaincc.org](http://www.thefountaincc.org)

*Depth in Love, Truth, and Life*



*The  
Fountain  
Christian Church*

**Office Hours:**

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

1023 N. Chinowth St.  
Visalia, CA 93291-4114  
Phone: (559) 732-6623  
FAX: (559) 732-6625

Website: [www.thefountaincc.org](http://www.thefountaincc.org)

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**Staff E-Mail Addresses:**

**Sam Sears, Senior Pastor**

[Sam@thefountaincc.org](mailto:Sam@thefountaincc.org)

**Carrie Guy, Associate Pastor**

[Carrie@thefountaincc.org](mailto:Carrie@thefountaincc.org)

**Chuck Romer, Worship Pastor**

[Chuck@thefountaincc.org](mailto:Chuck@thefountaincc.org)

**Romy Sagastume, Next Gen Pastor**

[Romy@thefountaincc.org](mailto:Romy@thefountaincc.org)

**Sheila Ronk, Office Administrator**

[Sheila@thefountaincc.org](mailto:Sheila@thefountaincc.org)

The Fountain  
1023 N Chinowth St.  
Visalia, CA 93291





# How to GO for GOspel ONLINE

By Pastor Sam Sears

Last month I shared with you that to “Go” (Matthew 28:19-20) to make disciples in today’s world meant going online. That is a call for us as a body, and certainly we have an online presence as a body, but maybe you are wondering how you as an individual can share the Gospel online?

As Christians in a digital world, we need to remember that our online posts are out there forever. When you post something that’s public, even if it’s deleted, it’s very easy to take a screen shot of it. Greg Koukl, author of *Tactics*, is fond of discussing the “ambassador model” for sharing the Christian life. We must carry this idea with us online. The world will notice if your social media seem to carry messages that both glorify God and glorify the world at the same time.

While it’s tempting to think that simply sharing a Scripture verse will cause others to read it and be blessed by it, the non-church-goer will probably pay more attention to how we interact with others and how our more general posts are geared. This means we must be Christ-like, even to our enemies or those people who seem to only reply or post to rile us up — commonly called “trolls.” We know that this is the case for our daily life, but sometimes in the less personal online world, we forget that there are real people behind the usernames we see, and we must remember that they are watching and that we are “living Epistles” (2 Corinthians 3:2) that they are reading at all times.

The easiest way to support growing God’s kingdom online is to show support for those who are already doing His work. For instance, our page and its posts, but not just ours, give reputable ministries like Dr. Heiser, or Stand To Reason, Maven, or others a “like” or “follow.” Let’s start with what you can do to help the church page, and then you can apply these same steps to other ministries that bless you.

If you are on Facebook, leave a recommendation for our page, “like” our posts, and share some of our content. That will help the word get out. We are also on Instagram, and while you can’t share as easily, every “heart” matters. If you are on YouTube, subscribe, turn on notifications, and “like” our videos, even if you have already watched them when they streamed on Facebook or in person. Every interaction helps get the word out there.

If you enjoy our church, one of the best ways to help it reach new people is to google our church and leave a short, 5-star google review. This helps new families in the area see a church when they are seeking a new place to worship.

You can repeat these steps for other ministries you like, and if you have a Christian author you love; I can’t stress how important Amazon reviews are. Many automatically search out and give negative reviews for books that promote Christianity, so your help is needed to support truth.

On an individual level, short mini-testimonies can have an amazing impact over time. Simply incorporating a thankfulness to God for the blessings in your life into your ordinary posts can provide a hook for others to see that

you are Christian and to think about the source of their blessings. A short shout-out about your daily reading or a beneficial Christian song can go a long way when united with consistently Christ-like behavior over time.

Times are changing, I hope you will join me in meeting people where they are by living the Christian life, both online and off.





## October News

By Carrie Guy

I am horrible at deleting old emails, text messages and subsequently have a lot of digital clutter. It's harder for me to organize than something tangible I can hold in my hand. Despite the challenge, I do work to declutter when I can. The other day I was going through old emails and discovered a note from a former youth parent. I try to keep encouraging words so that I can go there when I feel discouraged.

The interesting thing is that the daughter of that very mom called me recently when she was having her own bad day. I don't talk to her regularly, but she like so many others, know, when she needs me, I'm here. This doesn't happen with everyone of course, and as I pondered this I was reminded of the poem by Traci Smith, "Reason, Season or Lifetime."

In the early 2000's when I was living in Colorado, my friend Alexa, first introduced me to this poem. She quoted the first line to me and its stuck with me ever since: "People come into your life for a reason, A season or a Lifetime."

The truth is, we never know what it will be. There have been friends I've lost touch with and couldn't even find them in this great big world if I wanted to and others that were a chance encounter that have gone the distance with me in life some 20 or 30 years later.



I shared on our Fountain Instagram a photo of myself and a young man named Jorge. Jorge is one of those people I thought was for a reason, and God led us down a lifetime path. Jorge is deaf and 20 years ago I started interpreting for him while home visiting my parents. He was at La Joya Middle School, in fact, our very own, Sue Geis was an aide in his class. One day on the soccer field after school, his mom and younger brothers came up to me. I introduced myself. As Jorge grew he got other interpreters and my life filled up with other things, but I stayed connected with his family. I would give his brothers a ride to AWANA on Wednesday nights at church and Jorge would sometimes come to youth group or join us on a trip. Today, Jorge is 33 years old. He is currently suffering from a condition

known as dystonia, and last week, I walked him in his wheelchair down to Starbucks for a hang out. He often video messages me to chat and he has plans for us to go to Amigos soon.

I was just in awe of what God did with a seemingly mundane task of

interpreting for a junior higher.

We never know what God is doing. Organic Outreach, our operating system at the Fountain Church, is just this. Its sharing Jesus and having a heart for the lost and for God's people in the place where you are planted. We aren't responsible to share Jesus with a quota but to be Jesus to those around us and have an answer for this hope we have through what Jesus did for us on the cross. Its important we give attention to whatever is before us so that God can use us fully. Remember being used of God isn't just about reaching others but its also about God transforming us in the process.

Make room for God in your life. Be willing to step outside your comfort zone and allow God to do more than you could even hope for or imagine. If you don't feel confident in your knowledge of what you believe I'd encourage you to join us on Wednesday nights. Both men's and women's studies are gaining an understanding and defense (not defensive) of our faith.

For the ladies of our church, I'd encourage you to join us in Monterey this November for our two-night weekend retreat. We still have spots open, and you have no idea what God might do in you and through you. I can share countless other stories where people I wasn't expecting to be more than a church acquaintance became a good friend. Those experiences often happened on a trip.

In order for the love of Jesus to be shared, we all have to be in this together. What is God asking you to do? Where have you seen him take a relationship you thought was temporary and bless you in its permanence? Happy October everyone!

# Fountain Family Night

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Starts September 15th

AWANA KIDS CLUB (AGES 4YRS - 6TH GRADE - SIGN UP ON THE 8TH)

Fountain Youth - Basics of the Faith

WOMEN'S STUDY - TRUE STORY: AN APOLOGETIC FOR CHRISTIANITY

MEN'S STUDY - "I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FAITH TO BE ATHEIST"

BY TUREK AND GEISLER



## MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



The Stone's will be spending the month of October serving with Mennonite Disaster Service working on a project doing the finish work on houses being rebuilt after the 2018 Creek Fire in Paradise, CA.



Mike Rasmussen gave his testimony at Good News Jail Ministry fundraising Banquet.

## Sponsors Needed

Would you or your company like to sponsor a jump house/attraction for Fall Festival?



\$425



\$500



\$275



\$350

Please contact Romy Sagastume For more information  
[romy@thefountaincc.org](mailto:romy@thefountaincc.org) or Text 559-698-4523

\*\*\*A FLYER WILL BE GIVEN OUT WITH SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION\*\*\*

# October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Family Night	<div> <div>Awana</div> <div>Youth Group</div> <div>Men's Bible Study</div> <div>Women's Bible Study</div> </div>				1 6:30 Men's Group	2
3 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship		4 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	5 10:00 Staff Meeting	6 6:00 *Family Night	7 10:00 Berean Watchmen	8 6:30 Men's Group
9		10 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	11 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	12 10:00 Staff Meeting	13 10:00 Berean Watchmen	14 6:30 Men's Group
15		16 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	17 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	18 10:00 Staff Meeting	19 10:00 Berean Watchmen	20 6:30 Men's Group
21		22 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	23 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	24 10:00 Staff Meeting	25 10:00 Berean Watchmen	26 6:30 Men's Group
27		28 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	29 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	30 10:00 Staff Meeting	31 10:00 Berean Watchmen	1 6:30 Men's Group
2		3 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	4 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	5 10:00 Staff Meeting	6 10:00 Berean Watchmen	7 6:30 Men's Group
8		9 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	10 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	11 10:00 Staff Meeting	12 10:00 Berean Watchmen	13 6:30 Men's Group
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31		1 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	2 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	3 10:00 Staff Meeting	4 10:00 Berean Watchmen	5 6:30 Men's Group
		6 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	7 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	8 10:00 Staff Meeting	9 10:00 Berean Watchmen	10 6:30 Men's Group
		13 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	14 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	15 10:00 Staff Meeting	16 10:00 Berean Watchmen	17 6:30 Men's Group
		20 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	21 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	22 10:00 Staff Meeting	23 10:00 Berean Watchmen	24 6:30 Men's Group
		27 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	28 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	29 10:00 Staff Meeting	30 10:00 Berean Watchmen	31 6:30 Men's Group
		3 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	4 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	5 10:00 Staff Meeting	6 10:00 Berean Watchmen	7 6:30 Men's Group
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		17 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	18 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	19 10:00 Staff Meeting	20 10:00 Berean Watchmen	21 6:30 Men's Group
		24 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	25 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	26 10:00 Staff Meeting	27 10:00 Berean Watchmen	28 6:30 Men's Group
		31 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	1 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible study	2 10:00 Staff Meeting	3 10:00 Berean Watchmen	4 6:30 Men's Group



# Why Two Services?

By Sam Sears

We recently switched times for our two services. As folks settle into new routines, a few have asked, “Why two services?” I thought that this would be a great time to refresh us on our strategy.

Just before the pandemic, we launched a second, contemporary service. This service was designed to meet the unchurched closer to where they are. I have followed polls by Barna, including large research projects like “Making Room for Millennials,” as well as research by Thom Rainer and more mature pastors in Disciple Heritage Fellowship. I have also been interviewing, as best as possible, folks who visited our church and didn’t land here. Their comments were consistent and lined up with what Barna, Rainer, and others have found.

One hundred years ago, it seemed like almost everyone went to church; only 50 years ago, it seemed to be that the vast majority did. Church greatly influenced culture, but church was also a culture unto itself. The music, the language, the traditions — all were passed down inside the church by lines of families who went to church together. Meanwhile, significant trends that really gained steam in the 60’s saw an offshoot of people walk away from the church.

The unchurched developed their own culture, and the church largely didn’t interact with them. As 60 or so years went by, the use of words, music styles, and traditions all diverged in ways far sharper than ever before in U.S. history. That meant that those who grew up in church and younger people who were more exposed to the world’s culture — as well as those who had never been to church — communicated in vastly different ways.

Churches have noticed this trend for some time; hence, Maranatha Music’s inception and the continued evolution of contemporary Christian music. Combine that with the digital age, and even the way churches are built has changed, as we seek to both “feed the sheep” (John 21:17) and “reach the lost” (Luke 15:3-7).

Young people and the unchurched largely want dark places of worship, so they aren’t distracted by the crowds and can focus on hearing the message and the worship lyrics. They long for a more contemplative, yet casual, atmosphere and a more personal experience. They want music and rhythms that sounds familiar to them, like on the radio. In contrast, those who grew up with a church heritage value rich older hymns, the familiar songs they knew growing up and a bright atmosphere where they can see others worshipping as a communal event. They value tradition in a greater way than the young or unchurched. The two groups also don’t usually like the preferences of the other.

Since it is hard to have a service both well lit, and dark featuring all classic songs or hymns, or all songs that would be familiar to young people, both full of tradition, and yet feel relevant, we decided two different services were necessary.

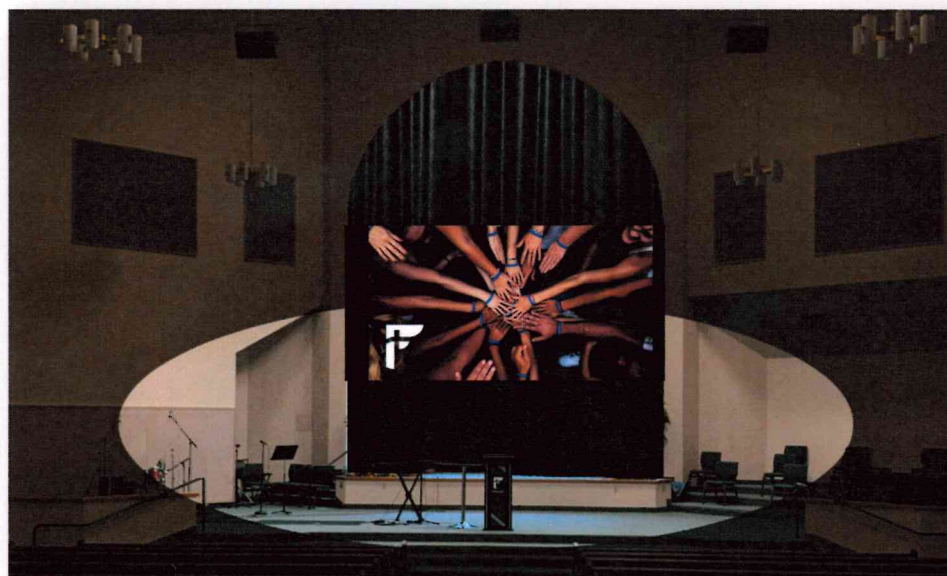
How is it working out? We have young people who weren’t regular attenders just a year ago volunteering in our sound booth and singing on stage.

Having two different times has brought new people just for the time convenience. Having different worship options has relieved some of the stress of Chuck trying to play to two distinct audiences. We have seen new visitors and new regular attenders who prefer one or the other. In other words, it’s helped us reach more people and given more opportunities for people to serve.

When Chuck suggested that we flip the services to better meet the needs of young parents, it was easy to relate as a young parent myself! So far, the change has worked out great for both worship teams, as well.

As we work on projects, like being able to close and open the curtains on our big windows — a function that it was originally intended to have — the two services will continue to look more distinct from one another. We will have the option of playing with the service order of the contemporary service more, while still providing something more traditional.

Despite the two services, we are still one church. Both hear the same message; both hear about the same small group and event opportunities to encourage mingling together; and both glorify God. This two-pronged approach allows us to be more diverse in our impact and is an important piece of the strategy of reaching younger and unchurched people in our community for Jesus.





## Testimony to the Church

By Lisa Barnes

I had a crisis in my spirit a short time ago. I was awakened to the feeling that I no longer had Jesus in my life. The despair was so heavy that I couldn't even call out, I couldn't think of anything but what I had just lost, and there was no way back, no more hope for eternity. This sinking continued to envelope me, I paced the floor for a long time and in my heart, I felt it was over, I had grieved the Holy Spirit too long. God gave me a glimpse of what Hell was like. God broke my spirit.

I want to say that I do love Jesus and want to walk In His ways. As a Christian I've had difficulties with sin, issues at home, we're human. I've spent more time with the TV than with my Bible and prayer, I've had marital problems where I've considered divorce. I've walked in fear and not shared the Gospel with others. These days The Spirit of fear is very strong, it makes Christians cowardly; and it makes us weak and faithless.

None of us are worthy, in and of ourselves, of Salvation. If we grieve the Holy Spirit in any area too long, we can face consequences, "The Lord is with you, while ye be with Him, and if you forsake him, He will forsake you." 2 Chronicles 15:2, and "Be not confirmed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2.

The Lord Jesus did bring me into worship that night, but we can't hold back any part of our heart, any hidden sin, He must be master of all or nothing. Jesus broke my spirit so He can now have a good work in me. We shouldn't want anything to hinder our walk, this world has nothing to offer us. We so need to be careful not to be the church "as a whole" of being neither hot nor cold as many have become.

We need to stand together, in the truth of his word, be encouraged to stay the course and continue to stand, or be deceived, as we can all be, myself included and fall short of His Glory.

-thank you, A Sister in Christ

Lisa Barnes.

Start now, gathering the stuff you would like to donate!

Drop things off on Sunday, October 17th, or contact Betty Guzman at, 559-553-5375, to make arraignments to bring something at a different time.







## Attendance & Giving

September 2021



Date	Average in Person Attendance	Total Giving
September.....	92 .....	\$21,855.86

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

October 2021

Tom Suttles.....	1	Ian Yale.....	27
Haley Thomas.....	1	Jeri Eubanks.....	28
Angelica Lara.....	2		
Abdul Massaquoi.....	10		
Charles Douglass.....	13		
Leila Ritter.....	14		
Chet Phillipe.....	15		
Sam Sears.....	16		
Edward Grant.....	18		
Jack Lowery.....	19		
Praise Subejano.....	19		
Glenda Gunning.....	22		

*Happy Anniversary!*

Phil & Frankie Parker .....	1
Kevin & Carrie Guy.....	7
Greg & Kelli Stowers .....	15
David & Shannan Ajluni.....	27

## Prayer Concerns

October 2021

Pray for the desire and opportunity to effectively share your faith!  
Pray for the fire fighters who are battling the fires around our state.

### Health

Ana Morales, Ashley Banuelos, Barbara Grant, Bill Switzer, Bonnie Henson, Cindy Marks, Donna Eastin, Ernesto Hernandez, Frank Henley, Harold Hoppert, Heather Smith, Jean Lamb, Jeff Rolph, Kevin Guy, Lynnette Johnson, Marilee Douglass, Pam Shattuck, Pauline Gurule, Rick Hamilton, Fred Wilder, Sandy Zinger

### Cancer

Al Stone, Charles Douglass, David Thomas, Hazel Bahrenburg, Jiggy Greene, Jim Shackelford, Joe Grant, Keith Moore, Michael Elder, Mike Brazil, Mike Gunning, Olly Ajluni, Sam Tomaino, Sandra Campbell, Shannan Ajluni, Susan Jacques, Jamie Harp

### Other Needs

Nina Suttles (Vision)

### Military

Andie Richwine – Marine, Brett Boland - Virginia,  
Jason Mariel - Afghanistan, Matthew Calhoun - Fort Knox,  
Michael Reid – San Diego, CA, Preston Correa – Marine  
Tyler Richwine – Marine