



# 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)

Follow Us on Social Media

Facebook @ The Fountain Christian Church

Instagram @ thefountain\_vis

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

### 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)

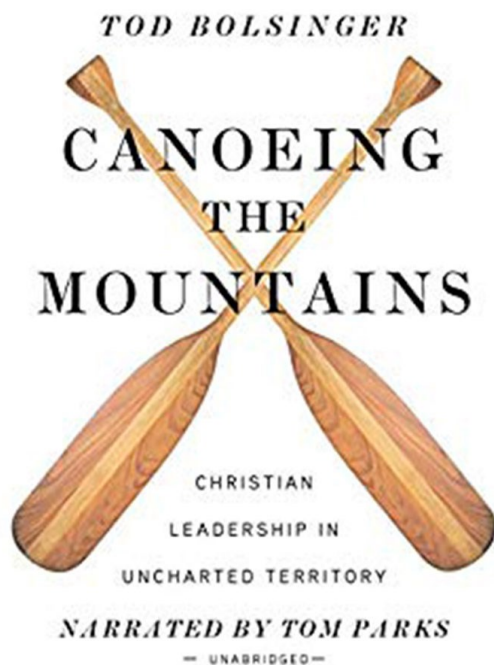
## Acts 1:8

“...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

# LESSONS FROM CANOEING DRY RIVER BEDS

Sam B. Sears

Allergies turned into a couple of fevers in the Sears household, and I took the extra time at home to finish reading the book, “Canoeing the Mountains,” by Tod Bolsinger. Bolsinger uses the story of Lewis and Clark as an allegory for modern church leadership. Lewis and Clark were commissioned as explorers, and all the experts of the time told them to expect a river route to the Pacific; yet once they got into uncharted territory, they found no river route, but more mountains. Rather than canoe the mountains, they had to adapt and become mountaineers, just as churches today must come to terms with the reality that the experts of past generations didn’t prepare us for the specifics of our journey, and we have to adapt to survive. However, Bolsinger warns, many do try to canoe dry riverbeds, even though the time has changed, and the river isn’t there anymore.



I was both refreshed and challenged by the book. With COVID-19, lockdowns and economic problems, many across the country are wondering what is next, in all areas of their life, including church. How do we take the next steps in this very different world?

Bolsinger has bad news for you who are expecting perfection from your leaders, be it those of us who serve The Fountain as elders, a mentor, a political leader or boss. They (and we) will disappoint. In fact,

leading, in some measure, involves disappointing others you lead. It’s hard to break the news to individuals that “normal isn’t coming back.” That can be very disappointing to hear. There is, of course, hope, as well: new, uncharted territory to explore and wonderful discoveries to be made.

Bolsinger drew attention to how unusual the party of Lewis and Clark was. They were military by nature, and yet collaborative. While it would be simple if churches just consisted of spiritual soldiers all taking their assignments from commanding officers, it doesn’t work that way. Each of us has different gifts and passions, and each community has different needs. This means communicating with each other about our passions and skills and discovering where they meet the needs of our community.

At times, Lewis and Clark empowered the native mother who was with them with a vote, and they did so with a slave, a man named York, as well. Sacagawea and York were unusual traveling companions, and Bolsinger suggests learning from those “native” to the new world we are in, and those on the margins. New and younger voices need to be a part of the discussion of what’s next for churches and how best to reach the unchurched around us.

The author chose a humorous illustration for his closing section. He shared honestly that many pastors and church leaders feel torn between “taking the hill” — that is, charging into their community for evangelism and best connecting with the unchurched and winning them for Christ — and “taking care of grandma.” He makes the later more loving and gentile than the phrase might come across at first when you first hear it. I’ve grown to love many of our oldest members in a special way. I still regularly think of Charles Douglas’s recent passing, as he was someone I connected with really well, and it was my joy to occasionally give him a ride to a doctor’s office. In short, we love our grandmas! Some leaders feel a tension, with only so much time: do we take care of existing members and meet their need; or do we reach out? Bolsinger tells us we have a much harder job: we have to “take the hill WITH Grandma!”

Bolsinger’s charge is hard, and he knows it. The unchurched are increasingly different from existing

*(Continued on page 3)*

# LESSONS FROM CANOEING DRY RIVER BEDS

Sam B. Sears

*(Continued from page 2)*

church members. They talk different languages, wear different clothes, listen to different music and decorate differently. They are a full-blown different culture. I'm thankful that we started Organic Outreach before I was even here and reaffirmed by a congregation-wide vote that we wanted to reach young families after I got here. That means that all of us are taking care of one another and trying to "take the hill." We are still navigating that challenge together.

DHF's Rick grace pulled out a quote from Wayne Kent's final sermon as senior pastor at FCC Decatur and shared it on social media: "If we continue to 'do church' the way we want it done, we will do so at the expense of the next generation" Throughout Bolsinger's book, he informs the reader to, "Keep going, learn as you go, and don't stop no matter what." And I think it's a good admonition. The destination has not changed, the Gospel won't change, but our tactics in sharing it will. Challenges will continue to come, experiments tried, mistakes made, even some disappointments, but we have

a wonderful opportunity here. A rich history as a body of believers and a growing town full of people who need to hear the Gospel.

We recently passed the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my call to The Fountain, then First Christian Church Visalia. More than half of my time here has been impacted by COVID-19 and lockdowns. I had no idea what was in store for me; neither did the Elders. Some Elders have moved or gotten ill, and we have also added new Elders to our leadership team. If you feel like what Bolsinger called a "Grandma" or you're new around here, please know that we value you both. We desire to honor our legacy, and to adapt. It won't be easy, but we intend to follow Bolsinger's advice to, "Keep going, learn as you go, and don't stop no matter what."

Matthew 28:18-20 - 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."

## ROY & DOROTHY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

### You're invited - July 23, 2022

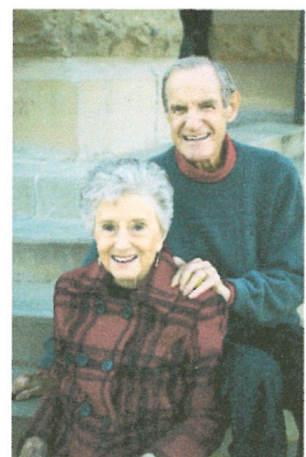
For out of towners, we recommend these hotels:

Pampa La Quinta

Hampton Inn

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

A card or letter would be appreciated if you can't come.



Come and go or come and stay as we celebrate Roy and Dorothy King.

2:00 - 5:00 PM CST.

First Presbyterian Church, 525 N Gray St., Pampa, TX in the Parlor Hall.

Please kindly RSVP to Eulaine McIntosh at [eulainemc@gmail.com](mailto:eulainemc@gmail.com)

or call or text with your name. 432-466-5052

---

# IN THE NEWS AND THE CALENDAR....

---

Sam B. Sears

**Roe v. Wade is overturned.** On a legal level, nothing changes for California, but in other states, they now have the option to make abortion restricted or illegal. As we journey through Luke, it's worth pointing out that Jesus is recognized as Lord while inside his mother Mary. Denying that an unborn human being is a person would be denying that Jesus was both God and a person at the same time while in His mother's womb. The unborn Jesus didn't take on humanity at some vague, other time but took on humanity at conception. The unborn John the Baptist also recognized his unborn cousin as Lord. The early church was unanimously pro-life and saw life as beginning at conception. This was made clear in the Didache, or the teaching, written by the early church fathers as essentially the first practical handbook of theology.

While the biblical position is pro-life, that doesn't mean we can vilify women who have had or will have abortions. They, too, are imperfect human beings in need of King Jesus' forgiveness. They are victims of wrong ideas, and we should desire to see them freed from the chains of oppressive lies. We need to love on them now at a whole new level, as many of them may be bitter and confused by the ruling and see Christians through a tainted lens because of it. May God bless those who adopt, those who work in crisis pregnancy centers, those who support young moms in any way, and those moms who choose life.

**Pride month has passed.** June is designated pride month. It's come to be a month of rainbows from companies celebrating LGBTQ+ who also do business in countries where homosexuals are stoned to death. It's a frustrating time for those of us who desire to love individuals whose views or behavior we may disagree with, but don't enjoy seeing them be victims of corporate exploitation, or also don't enjoy seeing celebrations of immoral behavior, especially ones that may impact how we raise our children.

Had they called it "stay out of my bedroom month," I'd be on board. I know that God calls us to a one man, one woman, for one lifetime, relationship, but I understand the wisdom in not letting the government get too powerful, including so powerful that it is dictating bedroom behavior. Had they called it "no name-calling month," I'm on board. Members of the

LGBTQ+ community are real human beings, with real feelings, and they are made in the image of God. Christians shouldn't be name-calling. Had they called it "tolerance month," I'd be on board. True tolerance allows disagreeing with someone, but just because I do, doesn't mean I have to hate them. Instead, they choose "Pride Month," and I can't celebrate "pride," nor should you. Proverbs 16:18 states, "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling." Romans 1 includes rampant sexual immorality as a sign of God's judgement on a people. Pride is not merely wanting to be left alone, this past month has been a celebration of our hypersexualized society's current god: self. As Matt Walsh's recent documentary, "What is a Woman," exposes, when pursuing pleasing self, it doesn't even matter to many if their views are inconsistent or inexplicable.

Most rainbows are put away for the year, but our neighbors and our children are still here. Let's faithfully pray for others and instruct our little ones to follow truth and be loving as they do so. More people who had hormone therapy and surgery to alter their appearance based on internal feelings are now coming out, revealing that it didn't help; and studies are starting to show that it's increasing suicide rates, not decreasing them. I don't want more people to experience that pain. I don't want people to chase acceptance from an ever-shifting society, and butcher themselves in unrepairable ways, when they can find love in the arms of God. Let's introduce them to the Great Physician and Mighty Counselor who can heal them from the very real things that they are feeling.

**What was Juneteenth?** I've gotten asked by a few people what the Holiday was about. It's newly recognized as a federal holiday, but it's been recognized by some for awhile. It celebrates federal soldiers being sent to Texas two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation, to ensure that all the slaves were freed. That sounds like a reason to celebrate to me! It reminds me of our mission today: to tell captives that they can be set free by the blood of Christ. It commemorates another moment in our history which, thankfully, includes recognizing that all are equal image bearers of God and worthy of being treated as such. It can also

*(Continued on page 5)*

# IN THE NEWS AND THE CALENDAR....

Sam B. Sears

*(Continued from page 4)*

serve as a reminder that slavery is sadly alive and well all around the world today. The Judeo-Christian values that helped end slavery in the West are not held everywhere. Ending modern slavery could be something to unite us in this country where is an ever-widening gap in the values held by different groups of people.

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** I'm so thankful to live in the U.S. I count it among my blessings, but let's remember not to get

things backwards. Phil 3:20 tells us, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;" We live here now, and should be thankful for it, but we live in enemy territory and should be using our time in service of our true King, Jesus. I'll enjoy the festivities upcoming, but I'll also be praying for our nation, and I desire that more of our nation would choose not just to thank God for our many blessings, but to bless God by being obedient to Him.

**KIDS  
CAMP**  **JULY 11-15  
6PM**



**SIGN  
YOUR  
KIDS  
UP!**



**IT'S  
FREE!**

---

# PRAYER CONCERNS

---

July 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, Jeremy Holley, JoAnne Jordan, Kevin Guy, Kevin Ray (DHF pastor), Marilee Douglass, Mary Stemkoski, Pam Shattuck, Fred Wilder, Sandy Zinger

**Cancer:** Ann Johnson, Bill Morland, David Thomas, David Welch, Janet Hagan, Jim Shackelford, Joe Grant, Keith Moore, Mike Gunning, Olly Ajluni, 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

---

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

---

July 2022

Kale Wilson.....	2
Joyce Hogan .....	4
John Lauffenberger .....	4
James Gatto.....	5
Brad Yale .....	5
Ed Kesterson.....	12
Heather Sears.....	17
Cienna Reynaga.....	19
Mona Rouch .....	19
Fred Wilder.....	23
Jim Barlogio .....	25
Bexleigh Stowers-Quilantan.....	25
Madeline Morrow .....	27
Robert Rouch .....	27
Jude Sanchez .....	27
Sharon Turl.....	31



Don & Peggy Jones.....	24
Roger & Ann Johnson .....	27

---

# ATTENDANCE & GIVING

---

June 2022

Average In Person Attendance

89

Total Giving

\$ 16,100.27

# July 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Men's Group	2
<div style="border: 1px solid blue; background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 5px;"> <p>*Family Night</p> </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid blue; background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 5px;"> <p>Awana Youth Group Men's Bible Study Women's Bible Study</p> </div>				
3 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	4	5 10:00 Staff	6 6:00 Kids Camp work day!	7	8 Men's Group	9
10 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	11	12 10:00 Staff	13	14	15 Men's Group	16
<div style="border: 1px solid blue; background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 5px;"> <p>Kid's Camp "Monumental" 6:00 PM - 8:15 PM</p> </div>						
17 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship 12:00 Elder Council	18	19 10:00 Staff	20 6:00 *Family Night	21	22 Men's Group	23
24 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship	25	26 10:00 Staff	27 6:00 *Family Night	28	29 Men's Group	30
31 9:00 Worship 10:30 Worship						



The Fountain  
1023 N Chinowth St  
Visalia, CA 93291



## ***Coming Events***

***July 6th - Kid's Camp set-up work day - 6:00 PM***

~

***July 11-15 - Kid's Camp - 6:00 PM***

~

***July 20th & 27th - Family Night - 6:00 PM***

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