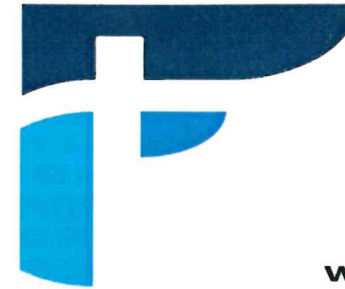


The Fountain
1023 N Chinowth St.
Visalia, CA 93291



THE FOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

www.thefountaincc.org

Depth in Love, Truth, and Life



The Fountain Christian Church

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

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Visalia, CA 93291-4114
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Follow Us on Social Media

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A Stolen Prayer

By Pastor Sam Sears

The concept of praying someone else's prayer always sounded so foreign to me. I wondered if it was merely "vain repetition" of Matthew 6:7. Greg Koukl, of Stand to Reason, swayed me from that position as he discussed a book of Puritan prayers and read a sample of them on the air. For Koukl, it was helpful for him to have an example of prayer, and it gave him a starting point. The prayers of others made him think about issues and concerns that didn't come up as frequently or naturally as it did for those who wrote and prayed those original prayers.

I think of Koukl's discussion when I find myself repeatedly singing some lyrics from Toby Mac's song, "Loose My Soul," with one minor change.

"Father God, I am clay in your hands,
Help me to stay that way through all life's demands,
'Cause they chip and they nag and they pull at me,
And every little thing I make up my mind to be,
Like I'mma be a daddy who's in the mix,
And I'mma be a husband who stays legit,
And I pray that I'm an ~~artist~~^{Pastor} who rises above,
The road that is wide and filled with self love."

Like me, you are probably not an artist. Though I insert the title "pastor" into the song, perhaps "servant" would be a better substitute that could apply to all of us. Those of us who are Christians, should be like Paul (Romans 1:1), willingly subjecting ourselves as servants for God.

Toby based the title of his song on Jesus' question in Mark 8:36, "For what does it benefit a person to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?" The world is going to offer us a lot of temporary fun and items to distract from our true purpose. The song records that the world will "chip and nag" and "pull" at us. Romans 12:2 commands us "do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." The unbelieving society at large will try to make us conform to their values first and try to win us over to do things their way; this matches our daily experience with trials and

A Stolen Prayer

By Pastor Sam Sears

temptations. Despite this being the stress point of the song, it doesn't actually begin there; it begins with a call to our Father God.

Toby uses a common spiritual analogy of human beings as clay and God as the potter; sculpting them into "earthen vessels" (2 Corinthians 4:7) is a long-running theme from scripture. Many theologians who are far wiser and more knowledgeable than I have written about each of the passages where the analogy is used. Jeremiah 18:5-6 states "Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 'O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?'" says the Lord. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!" Romans 9 makes it clear that this is universal, not just for Israel, when Paul writes, "On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, 'Why did you make me like this,' will it? Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?"

These two passages are important, but not without context, and in isolation may sound discouraging as we try to face the challenges in life. Author Dr. Leighton Flowers sees the key to applying these verses, and other uses of the analogy, in 2 Timothy 2:20-23, which records:

"Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels."

There in 2 Timothy 2 we see the same ongoing metaphor of the vessels of "earthen ware" or clay pots, but with a key difference. Paul is calling the clay to do something. It isn't an inanimate clump, as analogies are not complete. It needs to cooperate with the potter.

When Toby says he wants to "rise above, the road that is wide and filled with self-love" he doesn't have the modern day understanding of healthy self-esteem in view, but instead, self-worship. Like in Jeremiah 18, we can't issue orders to the potter, we can't arrogantly sculpt ourselves, but we can cooperate with sculptor.

We can't resist the world's pull, be a faithful spouse and involved parent, without leaning into our Maker and Sustainer. We must allow Him to shape us into what He desires us to be — His Children. I need that reminder often, to "Press on" as Paul says in Philippians 3. I may have a goal of cooperating with God, with being "clay" in His hands, but as challenges come at me, I relate to Toby's prayer request, "help me to stay that way through all life's demands."

Attendance & Giving

July 2021

Date	Attendance	Giving
July 4.....	98	\$10,847.00
July 11.....	85	\$1,928.37
July 18.....	117	\$3,246.55
July 25.....	105	\$1,386.72
Online Giving		\$5,088.00
Total		\$22,696.64



NEW Service Times begin Sept. 5

"Classic" Service at 9:00 a.m.

"Contemporary" Service at 10:30 a.m.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August 2021

Joseph Ajluni.....	3	Charles Romer.....	27
Carol Stone.....	3	Kacy Bailey	28
Traci Yale.....	4	Neoma Cowing.....	30
Heather Ritter.....	6		
Charles Southard	7		
Preston Correa.....	12		
Jessica Parker	13		
Candice Ramsey.....	16	Russell & Lisa Barnes.....	4
Laura Gunning	21	Buz & Donna Southard	11
Patrick Hogan.....	22	Wayne & Sue Geis.....	30

Happy Anniversary!



Thank you! To all who helped make Kids Camp a success!



Membership Class: Sunday, Aug. 29



Are you interested in learning more about the ministries here at The Fountain? Would you like to know more about becoming a member? Please join Sam following the 2nd service (about 11:30 a.m.) on Sunday, Aug. 29 for an in-depth look. Please call the office (732-6623) to reserve your space, and lunch will be provided.

August 202

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship 2:00 Men's Bible study	2 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	3 10:00 Staff	4 7:00 Family Night— Worship Night	5 10:00 Berean Watchmen	6 6:30 Men's Group	7
8 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship 2:00 Men's Bible study	9 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	10 10:00 Staff	11 7:00 Family Night— Movie & Taco Truck	12 10:00 Berean Watchmen	13 6:30 Men's Group	14
15 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship 2:00 Men's Bible study	16 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	17 10:00 Staff	18	19 10:00 Berean Watchmen	20 6:30 Men's Group	21
22 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship 12:00 Elder Council 2:00 Men's Bible study	23 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	24 10:00 Staff	25	26 10:00 Berean Watchmen	27 6:30 Men's Group	28
29 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship 12:00 New Member Class 2:00 Men's Bible study	30 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	31 10:00 Staff	SUMMER AT 7:00! WEDNESDAY NIGHTS...			

NEW THIS SEPTEMBER: Classic and Contemporary!

By Chuck romer

I remember a season in our family when Brandon, Ben and Krista were in their preschool years. It was a time when Donna developed her "Back Row Ministry" at church, because it was a rare Sunday that she was able to get to church on time, and she often found herself in a back row... sitting with others who were also slipping in to find a seat after the service started. Donna is a very organized person, but it seemed almost every Sunday something happened with one of the kids – just as she was trying to get out the door to church.

This past January when Romy and Chris had their new baby, I realized how difficult it might be for Romy to get to church by 7:45 each Sunday morning to prepare to lead the music for the 8:30 service.

In February, I had a discussion with Sam... and he had been thinking about the situation as well. He asked what I thought about changing the service times to 9:00 and 10:30, and that seemed to be a good choice to me.

Then Sam asked me if the music teams might flip services as well... meaning Romy would lead the service at 10:30 a.m. – and I would lead the earlier service at 9:00 a.m. That seemed like a natural solution... and would give us a better chance to minister to other young families who – like Chris and Romy – had young children. And September seemed like a perfect launch point for the change, as families would be home from summer travels and kids would be starting school once again.

So, here's our New Worship Schedule – beginning September 5:

Our "Classic" worship service will move to 9:00. I will be leading the music for that service, and we'll continue to feature hymns, classic praise songs, and other songs that enhance the theme each Sunday.

Our "Contemporary" worship service will move to 10:30. Romy will lead the best of the new praise and worship songs that are being sung around the world. There will be occasional Sundays where our rhythm section (drums, guitar, bass and keyboard) will join Romy and her team to enhance the contemporary nature of the music.

I hope you will join me and embrace the new schedule. It has the potential of welcoming new families and singles to our church family... while still continuing the best of the traditions that we value so deeply.

As we move forward into the fall, I pray that we will continue to "speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with our hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:19,20)

TULARE-KINGS RIGHT TO LIFE

Cordially invites you to join in celebrating
the Sanctity of Human Life at the

TWENTY-SIX ANNUAL *Making a* **DIFFERENCE** *FOR Life*

FUNDRAISING BANQUET
Thursday, September 9, 2021
6:00 p.m. The Woodlands Visalia

4211 West Goshen Ave

FEATURING

David Daleiden

David Daleiden is an investigative journalist who went undercover for 30 months to expose illegal activities of the abortion industry. He is also the creator of numerous videos currently under gag order, some in 2015, that shocked the country and exposed the criminal activity of many facets of the abortion industry and how tax payer dollars fund research using fetal organs harvested from born and alive babies. David is the catalyst who caused Congress to do an investigation into the abortion industry, and led many states to defund Planned Parenthood. David Daleiden is one of the most skilled and successful investigative journalist of our generation. David founded his Center for Medical Progress in 2013 to go undercover inside the highest echelons of the abortion and fetal tissue industries

- Thomas Moore Society



Father Frank Pavone

Fr. Frank Pavone is one of the most prominent pro-life leaders in the world. Originally from New York, he was ordained a priest in 1988 and has dedicated his entire life and ministry to ending abortion. Fr. Pavone serves as National Director of Priests for Life, President of the National Pro-life Religious Council and is the National Pastoral Director for both the Silent No More Awareness Campaign and Rachel's Vineyard, the world's largest ministry of healing after abortion. He is the author of four books, *Ending Abortion*, *Not Just Fighting it*, *Pro-life Reflections for Every Day*, *Abolishing Abortion*, and *Proclaiming the Message of Life*.



Kids Camp Fun!



Prayer Concerns

August 2021

Pray for the desire and opportunity to effectively share your faith!

Our Nation and Leaders

Teachers & Students in Visalia

Health

Ana Morales, Ashley Banuelos, Barbara Grant, Bill Switzer, Bonnie Henson, Cindy Marks, Donna Eastin, Frank Henley, Harold Hoppert, Jean Lamb, Jina Sevier, Kevin Guy, Marilee Douglass, Pam Shattuck, Pauline Gurule, Rick Hamilton, Fred Wilder, Sandy Zinger

Cancer

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