

# THE MONTE VISTAN

NEWSLETTER OF MONTE VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH / MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE

## LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

During the month of February, our dollars in the pew will help provide clean water in remote villages in Ghana. Bottles of water will also be available for you. Drink the water and then fill the bottle with your extra change, dollars, or a check during the month. The bottles will be collected on Sunday, March 4.

Through their Water for Life Program, Feeding the Orphans coordinates well drilling in remote villages in Ghana as a platform for sharing the gospel. New wells provide clean, accessible water to villages, and the gospel brings True Living Water (John 7:37-38).

In 2016, Monte Vista first donated dollars and filled water bottles to build a well. We knew that when the Water for Life Program drilled a well in a village, they also built a church, but we had no idea how much was needed to do that. We found out it was about \$5,000 and when we counted our donations, they totaled over \$5,000!

A water well and a church building now exist in the village of Marfor Krum, Ghana. The well has been a tremendous blessing to the community. Prior to the well Monte Vista provided, the villagers were forced to either drink dirty water from a polluted stream or purchase water from a truck that came weekly and charged more than they could afford.

Righ O'Leary of Feeding the Orphans writes "Monte Vista has blessed so many in that village and lives have truly been changed and saved because of your generosity."

Let's do it again!



From Dirty Water...



To Clean Water

## Who Shapes Your Thoughts?

I heard about a simple study that was conducted. Participants were asked to type in the word "Egypt" into their search engine. For people who were conservative, the "Muslim Brotherhood" popped up. For people who were liberal, "Tahrir Square" popped up. For people who were moderates, "places to eat and things to see in Egypt" popped up.

It was no surprise that search engines collect data about us every time we go online and then direct us toward sites of similar content or interest. What was interesting was the impact it is having on us. Our opinions are being shaped and solidified by those who share our opinion or worldview. We are not listening to the other side. We are not allowing ourselves to be challenged. We are in opposition to anyone who does not agree with us. These trends are growing at a fast rate and our communities and nation are becoming increasingly divided.

When did we become afraid of other ideas, opinions, and perspectives? When did we become so defensive that only our way was the right way? One of the things I like about interacting with Jesus is that his thoughts, ways, and opinions are not like mine. I like that because he is rescuing me from myself and a life that is headed down a one-way street with a dead-end. He rescues everyone who is willing to listen to his thoughts and open to his ways. It may lead you to change directions.

Make a commitment this month to really listen to someone from the "other side," that is where you might find Jesus.

Jerry Mantooth

## MV KIDS

### Wednesday Night Kid's Club for Christ

6:00-7:00pm

Ages: 3 years–6th grade

We spend this time learning about God's word. We also use this time to concentrate on Mission opportunities. The children's department will team up with the Missions Council for the Change for Change Clean Water initiative by labeling the water bottles for collecting change.

#### Upcoming Events:

**February 2** Preteen Lock-in, meet at MV at 6:00pm Friday and pick-up time is 9:00am on Saturday. Cost is \$5 to help cover supper at Gatti's and breakfast.

**March 24** 2:00-4:00pm Easter Event and Egg Hunt

**March 30** Preteens to see the movie *God's Not Dead 3*

## FEBRUARY STUDENT EVENTS

We begin February by continuing our series, *Jesus Changes Everything*, on Wednesday evenings. Each Wednesday begins with food at 6:30pm followed by music, study and discussion. We usually conclude around 8:15pm.

School is out February 19 for Presidents' Day.

On February 23, Winter Jam is at Thompson Boling Arena. Winter Jam is an evening of Christian music with Skillet, Building 429, Kari Jobe, Jordan Feliz, KB and more as well as speaker Nick Hall and Comedian John Crist. For more info, visit [www.jamtour.com](http://www.jamtour.com). We will meet at MVBC at 4:00pm and should return around 10:30pm.

On February 27, Youth are encouraged to serve as part of the MVBC community at The Welcome Table. Meet at New Providence at 4:30pm and dinner service usually concludes at 6pm.

## RESURRECTION RUN MARCH 31

Our next Resurrection Run is March 31. This will be Monte Vista's 7th annual event on the Saturday before Easter. Proceeds from the run benefit Family Promise of Blount County. In the last six years the run has raised \$108,799 for Family Promise!

You need to know:

The race is a 5K Run or One Mile Fun Walk.

Run/walk begins at 8:30am at the Sandy Springs Park Pavilion.

Register online: <https://runsignup.com/race/tn/maryville/resurrectionrun>

If you do not have computer access, you may register and pay in the church office. Checks should be made payable to Family Promise of Blount County.

Registration fee until March 16, \$25 for adults and \$15 for students under 18. After March 16, registration will be \$30. Paid registration includes a free t-shirt. Children under 9 are free.

There will be electronic timing with prizes and awards.

Volunteers will be needed to help with registration and course monitoring.

## WELCOME NEW PARTNERS

### Linda Simpson

Linda grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She met her husband, Jack, there and married. They were married 33 years during which time they pastored churches in Louisiana and Alabama. Upon retiring, they moved to Knoxville. They have a combined family with 4 children and 10 grandchildren.

Linda says, "I have always loved horses. I continue to ride my horse, though not as often as I used to. I also enjoy having a garden during the summers."

"My first impression of MVBC and my continuing knowledge of it is of the love of Jesus and each other. The servant attitude towards others and the love and acceptance I felt from day one was what caused me to want to be a part of this family. I never felt like a stranger but as one of the family right away. I love this church family and hope to be a servant here for many years to come."

### Gary, Lori, Connor and Case Bright

Gary works at Clayton Homes and Lori works at Pinkstaff, Simpson & Headrick an accounting firm in Knoxville. Connor is a sophomore at William Blount and Case is a 7th grader at Carpenters Middle. Gary grew up in Maryville and Lori is originally from Baton Rouge, LA. Linda Simpson is Lori's mother.

As a family they enjoy camping and kayaking. Gary's hobbies are riding motorcycles and fishing. Lori likes reading and traveling. Connor loves fishing and hunting and Case spends time biking and playing games.

"From our first visit to MVBC we felt so welcome and were greeted so warmly by so many people. It was very important to us to find the right church for our boys and their spiritual growth and they felt immediately at home with the youth group and the leaders."



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 3

8:00am at IHOP