

It's Time to Prepare For ***A Different View***

It seems like we are always preparing for something around MVCC—another worship experience, a wedding, a funeral, or a special event like the Daddy Daughter Dance coming up this Friday night. For me, preparation is a key for success in most any venture—secular or sacred. In this short letter, I want to share and elaborate on a few things I shared on Sunday morning, January 31st. With illness, rotating schedules, and vacations we know we only speak to about fifty percent of the church family every week, so I'm reaching out to those who call MVCC home and/or those who are committed to praying for our church family.



Last Sunday I said during my message, "If you're a part of anything we do as a church, you are benefiting from the fact that there was a group of people who stepped into a prayer closet years ago and gave God some of their time and stepped out of that closet and brought their time, talents, and treasure to the Lord to be used by Him. Because of that MVCC was born, and since then hundreds of others have made those same commitments to God and MVCC has grown both numerically and spiritually. That numerical growth is causing us to call for *A Different View*."

This first change in view will be felt by our preschoolers beginning this coming Sunday, Feb. 7:

Because God's multiplying the number of children around MVCC, we are moving some of our kids around to make sure our classroom space is manageable for teaching. If you have a three year old, they will leave their existing 2/3 year old class and join the new 3/4/PreK class. Our Kindergarteners will leave their existing class and join Kidz View on the main level of the Student Center. Tara and the other leaders in Kidz View will continue to strive to create both large group and small group environments that are conducive to the spiritual growth of our Kindergarteners-fifth graders.

The second change in view will begin with a new fund-raising campaign we're calling "A Different View":

I have a confession to make. For years as I listened to others talking about their building campaigns and describing the stress and specifically the costs of the venture, I've found myself saying, "*I don't have enough...we don't have enough margin to even consider such an option.*" But God's been building my confidence and trust in Him in specific ways since January 2013. Beginning in 2013 to present, we've stepped out in confidence and trust and expanded our mission and ministries budget 11%, 15%, 15%, and this year 13%. In each of these years, we've taken a large step of faith to start and fund new mission work and church ministries. In some of these years, we've also raised money for build-outs that have given us our present MVCC's facility.

Our 2016 mission and ministry budget is \$544,194. This correlates to \$10,465 per week in tithes and offerings. This year's increase also allocates money so we can expand our staff team. You can pray for your elders and others on the search team as we prayerfully search and select the right person for this position.



But your elders, me included, believe it's time to prepare for **A Different View**. What does that mean? We are proactively working on two fronts. First, we are looking into alternative sources of water that will allow us to install sprinklers in our existing facility that will permit us to rent the final bay in the warehouse and expand both our sanctuary and classroom space. Once all renovations were completed, our facility would expand to 14,000 square feet, including another

large classroom for our children and a sanctuary that would fit 350 persons per service (up from our 240 today).

Second, we need to raise money NOW for the land that will one day house MVCC's new worship and ministry center. We've been approved by Union Band for an acquisition loan of \$375,000. That's only 80% of the total we could offer for land when the right piece comes along. That means in order for MVCC to buy a piece of land, we must prepare IN ADVANCE by raising and banking 20% of the total cost of the land. That means MVCC needs to raise upwards of \$93,750. This is our goal for 2016. We don't know what doors God will open and close as we walk through this year, but we want to be ready when He opens the doors.

So we're inviting MVCC to join us on a ONE MILE journey. That's right...one mile. We're going to raise this money ONE FOOT at a time. So here is MVCC's next challenge. We want to raise a mile of ten dollar bills in 2016. A 10 dollar bill is 6" long. Tape two of them together and you've got yourself a foot. That means that for every foot along our mile journey we can raise \$20. There are 5,280 feet in a mile. If you multiply 5,280 feet by 20 dollars, MVCC can raise \$105,600, which is above and beyond our mission and ministry budget. What excites me about this is that when God shows us which direction He's leading we'll be prepared to move forward.

Would you help us reach this goal in 2016? It's bigger than me alone, and bigger than you alone, but we truly are better together. We have ten celebration points along the one mile journey up the mountain. I look forward to celebrating often this year as we climb towards our goal. If you'd like to give financially, you can mark your offering envelopes under the OTHER category: "A Different View" or "ADV," or you can give online and click "A Different View" under the designated offerings.

Above my office desk at the church are three parcels of land that are in the immediate area of our present facility that have my attention. I've got the names and addresses of the owners highlighted so I can pray circles around them and their land. If the Lord's

will is that we are to have any of these three sites, we'll know soon enough. But, today we have a job to do: pray, give, and prepare.

As I concluded last Sunday I said, "**A Different View** is not really about the money, it's about our faith. Do we have the confidence and trust in God to take a little more of our treasure and give it to this special venture?" I'm believing in a God who will take care of His children if we respond to His prompting and give in faith. Others don't have to know what decisions you've made, but we know from the Bible that **our Father** sees what is done in secret and rewards His children for their faithfulness (Matthew 6).

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. Now take it to prayer and respond as the Lord guides you.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark", followed by a small circular flourish or mark.

Pastor Mark