



# Tell It On The Mountain

Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church

559-683-6742

September 2005

*Dear Sierra Vista Friends,*

“Head lice?!” A sister church in the valley opened their arms a little wider than usual this summer and held a Vacation Bible School for children on the other side of the tracks. As a consequence a number of those church people contracted head lice! No fun☹ But, the good news is that people heard and saw the love of Jesus Christ through them. It simply cost more than they had expected.

I wonder if Jesus had head lice in mind when he told the parable of the wedding banquet to which the invited guests chose not to come? As a result the Master instructed his servants, “Quickly, get out into the city streets and alleys. Collect all who look like they need a square meal, all the misfits and homeless and wretched you can lay your hands on, and bring them here.” (Luke 14:21)

That is missions in our own back yard.

When missions are overseas and we get to take a two week trip to help, it is often a challenge. But, when the mission is on our doorstep, day after day, all year around, that’s quite another challenge, isn’t it?

Those up-close kinds of missions come in varieties of forms: a family member who is infirmed; a neighbor child at lose ends; a single mom on a limited income; a divorcee trying to find which way is up; a work associate with a bad attitude; a fellow church member who is still rough around the edges....

Oswald Chambers astutely observes: “In missionary enterprise the great danger is that God’s call is effaced by the needs of the people until human sympathy absolutely overwhelms the meaning of being sent by Jesus. The needs are so enormous, the conditions so perplexing, that every power of mind falters and fails. We forget that the one great reason underneath all missionary enterprise is not first the elevation of the people, nor the education of the people, nor their needs; but first and foremost the command of Jesus Christ- ‘Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.’”

If I am motivated to help others because of their need, I will become discouraged if I fail to meet those needs. I am vulnerable as well to bitterness if I do not receive thanks or recognition for my efforts to help. On the other hand, if I help others because Jesus tells me to, the only encouragement I need is his “Well done!” whether or not I am “successful” or thanked.

Uncomfortably challenged,

Rick Irish  
Interim Pastor

## LABOR DAY WEEKEND WORSHIP



September 4<sup>th</sup> we will have just one worship service at 9 a.m. outside in our amphitheater.

## PNC UPDATE:



*We’re on the road!*

The last two Sundays of August and the first Sunday of September we are traveling to hear our final candidates preach. Pray that we listen with God’s ears and will be able to discern the direction He wishes us to go. Thank you!

## What’s Inside

Session Notes & Votes	page 2
Senior Fellowship Events	page 2
Looking for Wedding Coordinators	page 2
New Adult Class starting on Galatians	page 3
Women’s Fellowship Lunch	page 3
Report From Nicaragua trip	page 4
Supporting our Missionaries	page 5
<i>Beyond the Gates</i> movie	page 5
Get Involved in Family Min.	page 6
September Calendar	Page 7

**SESSION NOTES AND VOTES**

August 16, 2005

**IT WAS NOTED...**

- Ministry Teams are now being updated. If you are asked to serve, please give it prayerful consideration. If you would like to volunteer to serve in the area of Youth, Prayer, Assimilation and Membership, Mission, Finance, Worship, Building and Grounds, Community Life, Adult Ed, Personnel or Children's Ministry, please contact a Pastor, an Elder or Clerk of Session, and we'll put you in touch with the right person.
- Average attendance for July 24 – August 14 was 330.
- Deacon Representative, *Don Hendrickson*, reported that the Deacons are organized for the new term and that parishes have been assigned. Deacons are in the process of contacting their parishioners.
- Annual staff evaluations are underway for all paid employees
- Leadership training for those interesting in teaching the Alpha Bible Course will be held in Fresno in October.

**IT WAS VOTED...**

- To approve facility use for two weddings in October.
- To approve the use of the church van and drivers for PNC use on three weekends in Aug/Sept. Drivers are: *Bob Celum, Bob Frembling, Ginny Fulmer, Eric Hagen, Amanda Hendrickson, Lana Jackson, Tami Rose, Jim Smith and Nancy Trauger.*
- To approve *Fletcher Haggard* for baptism in Bass Lake, pending interview. Date TBA.
- To approve baptism for infant *Jenna Binnewies* on September 25, 2005, at morning worship.
- To receive the July, 2005, Statement of Operations and the General Checking Account report as presented.
- To have one morning worship service on Labor Day weekend, September 4, 2005
- To approve two overtures for approval by Presbytery to be sent to General Assembly.
- Overture: *On Amending the Form of Government to Provide a Decade of Peace Concerning Further Amendment of G-6.0106b.*
- Overture: *On Commending Study of the Authoritative Interpretation of 1976.*

Betty L. Strain, Clerk of Session

**SENIOR FELLOWSHIP EVENTS****September Event: "My Fair Lady"**

We're going to Roger Rocka's Theatre Sunday, **September 18<sup>th</sup>** for Sunday Brunch and The Good Company Players production of "My Fair Lady." We'll leave the church right after the 9 a.m. worship service. Reservations are closed. Questions?? call Pat Kruse at (209)742-4432.

**FALL AFTERNOON AT CALVIN CREST!**

We will share a Fall Sunday afternoon together! We will meet at Calvin Crest October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2 –6:30 p.m. for a social time, games, appetizers, dinner and dessert.



There will be apple picking and maybe some berries! Bring your bags. Bring your games! Bring your appetizers and desserts to share!

The cost of dinner will be \$8 per person. Sign-ups will be September 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> between services. Come have fun!!! Questions??? Call Gene & Yhonna Loy at 658-8942.

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR WEDDING COORDINATORS**

- ❖ DO YOU LIKE HELPING TO PLAN SPECIAL EVENTS?
- ❖ DO YOU HAVE THE GIFT OF HOSPITALITY?
- ❖ WAS YOUR WEDDING THE BEST DAY OF YOUR LIFE?
- ❖ DO YOU WISH YOU COULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN?



If you answered yes to any of the above you are perfect to be one of several SVPC's Wedding Coordinators. SVPC is now accepting applications. Contact the church office (683-6742) for more information or to sign-up. New Teams will be starting in

**WORSHIP & SERVE WITH JOY!**

We are always looking for new people to participate in our Sound Team, Choir and Praise Teams. If you are interested please contact one of the following:

Sound Team: Ruben Quintana, 760-3140

Choir: Cathy Walker, 658-7376

Praise Team: Denise Jones, 658-7519

*It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High. Psalm 92:1*

## GALATIANS: The Christian's Declaration of Freedom

The first century Christian Church believed Jesus Christ was the Son of God whose death and resurrection provided Salvation for humankind. Jesus declared that whoever believed in Him would have eternal life. But there were those who stressed that this was not enough – one must also do the works of the Mosaic law in order to be acceptable to God. This was a terrible burden because there were many laws and they were impossible to keep!

The Good News of Salvation by **faith** in Jesus Christ **alone** was like a bell proclaiming liberty from salvation by keeping laws! But legalists wanted to rebuild the hedge that excluded those who didn't measure-up. They distorted the message of freedom by adding a gospel of **works**!

This made the Apostle Paul very angry. He had founded many churches in Asia and Europe preaching Salvation by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Thousands had responded in belief and were liberated from paganism. Now his spiritual children were succumbing to the seductive teaching of legalists. Paul wrote many letters to these churches about the problem, but his most passionate was the letter to the **GALATIANS**.

We are all children of Paul. We believe in salvation by faith in Christ alone. We have experienced liberation! Yet we are often seduced by legalism and the "gospel of works." Unbelievably we are attracted by bondage! Formulas, codes and systems fascinate us. The clanking shackles are not always visible but the grip and darkness is there. Coercive cults and enslaving superstitions proliferate. We are inhibited, obsessive, compulsive and defensive. Paul says we pervert the Gospel of Salvation by Faith in Christ Jesus alone when we add anything to it. Anything!

Paul's letter to the Galatians proclaims, "The righteous shall live by faith." This is our declaration of freedom!

Join Mark Landrey in a special **Bible Study Seminar** of Paul's letter to the Galatians beginning Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 in the Chapel and concluding December 11<sup>th</sup>.



Awana at Sierra Vista: Awana begins September 7<sup>th</sup>! The 2 weeks in Central America reminded me that God is in control of our club and the lives of kids in Oakhurst, they are just as dear to Christ as the kids in Nicaragua. So as we look at our own club this year, we are *in need of a Sparkie Director* (Tami has moved onto be the JV Director), a few more "Awana Grandparents" to listen to Bible verses and encourage the children with one-on-one attention, and additional **club leaders** so the club can grow and continue to reach out to the community. We remember that God is in control and He is out in front of us preparing hearts for service and financial support. God is also preparing the hearts and minds of families in Oakhurst to receive the Gift of Salvation and the love of Jesus Christ. Please pray with us as we prepare for the new club year; that we will be used by God and that we will see kids coming to know and trust Christ as their Savior.

For more information on Awana visit our website at [www.sierravistachurch.org/awana](http://www.sierravistachurch.org/awana), email us at [awana@sierravistachurch.org](mailto:awana@sierravistachurch.org) or call the church office.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

**September 17th, 11:30**, we are serving a baked potato bar and fruit salad for a cost

Our theme is 'Grateful Moments' and we will have several speakers who will feed our Humble Serving Hearts well.



Come and be renewed and inspired. Bring your friends. There will be a collection bin for donations of good items for Manna House. Please

### WOW – NEWS

WOW (Women of the Word) began as a small women's Bible study five years ago. We meet Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Sierra Vista Chapel. Each week 25-35 women meet for fellowship, singing, Bible study and prayer.

WOW will resume on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. During the month of September we will be finishing the study "Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby. A new study, "Believing God" by Beth Moore will begin on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

WOW is still taking reservations for the December 2 & 3 Beth Moore Conference at Selland Arena in Fresno. Cost for the conference is \$50. Call Carol Taylor in September to be put on the list, 683-8085. If you have already purchased tickets, Carol Taylor has them and will see that you get them in September. This is a great opportunity to hear Beth Moore "up close and personal."

WOW is looking for YOU! If you are interested in knowing more about the Bible study, or are willing to help with refreshments, music, or becoming a discussion leader, call Bryana Frembling (642-2435) or Carol Taylor (683-8085).

## God is in Control - or



After a few weeks of hearing about the highs and lows of our trip and seeing our human side, we wanted you to hear of a few things that were truly amazing and to tell you a little more about El Faro in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua.

Our connection started back in the early 90's when the Lynch and the Smith families met. Some of you know Jamie and Sherry Smith and their four children from Coarsegold. Jamie used to deliver propane for Meyer's Gas and he worked for Tri Country Septic before heading off to Bible College in Southern California with Calvary Chapel. His first pastor position was in a church in Bozeman, MT, where he got the call to Nicaragua. If you visit our web site at [www.sierravistachurch.org/elfaro](http://www.sierravistachurch.org/elfaro) you'll find out more about the Smith family and discover that Calvary Chapel San Juan del Sur is more than just a church. It's a youth center, bakery, restaurant, English language school, and soon to be computer school.

**The Bakery:** From the tiny kitchen crammed with bread racks, a professional bread oven, freezer and a tiny sink with no hot water, comes perfect English muffins, hamburger buns that look like they came right out of the bag, yummy pineapple upside-down cake and the best cinnamon rolls ever. Ana, the head baker and young mother of 2 children, gets to the bakery at four in the morning to start turning out breads to sell in the community, the profits help to support the youth center. *Our team worked on a new kitchen and patio while we were there.*

**The Youth Center:** Provides a place to minister and preach the Gospel. There is little to do in the pueblo. The Youth Center gives kids an alternative to boredom, violence, and gangs and introduces them to the grace of God. It is amazing! Nicaraguan children go to school in either the morning or the afternoon and have a large portion of the day free. From the time the center is open at 8 am to when it finally closes at 10 pm, the center is a happening place!

**Osana:** Kids are kids all over the world and they love Awana - San Juan del Sur is no different. With over 60 kids the first night, we had our work cut out for the week. It was great fun as we saw almost 100 kids come through the program. Sheri mentioned that 70% of these families were new to the center. Ruth, who runs the hostel where we stayed even came to club the last 3 nights and helped out with crafts. Awards Night was the highlight of the week. The club was running without Gringos and over 45 kids had finished their entrance booklets. They, along with and 20 leaders, received club shirts and Bibles. The

Word of God is powerful and the children gobbled up the Gospel through organized games, Bible memorization, and messages of salvation from Pastor Jamie. The week was a huge success and we look forward to walking alongside this sister club in the years ahead.

**Fellowship:** Friends for a lifetime is what you get when you do mission work. We had an amazing team filled with skills and gifts to meet a variety of challenges. After 2 weeks of living together, we grew closer as a 'family' and share some wonderful memories. On our way home, we stopped off the pot-holed highway and had our Sunday morning service zip-lining through the canopy of the rain forest. Singing praise songs while clinging to trees a few hundred feet in the air is a Holy experience. We also saw an active volcano with pools to swim in that were heated by the volcano, green lizards that would cling to your shirt, poisonous dart frogs, barking geckos and an endless supply of Gallo Pinto. JJ even had a parrot fly out of the forest and sit on his hand!

**La Montaña:** Our last stop before heading home was a Christian camp in the rain forests of Costa Rica called **La Montaña**. While we were visiting, a public school group (yes, their government sends the children to camp to get a 'spiritual experience') was listening to a speaker using state of the art sound and lighting. If it hadn't been for the armed guard at the entrance or the 4 types of venomous snakes you would have thought you were back in California. La Montaña left us with a reminder of the possibilities of what God can do in Central America. [www.lamontana.org](http://www.lamontana.org)

**God is in Control:** Overall the most important lesson we learned while in Nicaragua was that God is in Control! We know we say that and we believe it, but while we were in Central America, we saw it. Thank you for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for the Smiths, the Meeks, and the Christian leaders in San Juan del Sur. Pray for the children and families as they continue to trust in Jesus. Pray for their daily lives as life is hard and things do not run as smoothly as they do stateside. We hope you visit the web site and partner with us in prayer as we continue to support our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua. [www.sierravistachurch.org/elfaro](http://www.sierravistachurch.org/elfaro)

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:12-13*

In Christ's joy, the El Faro Team

## MISSIONS & OUTREACH

David, Ellyn, Dustin & Taylor Hoffman were here in July, sharing with SVPC about God calling them to going full time with MAF. Here is an update from them:

### *HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED IN FOREIGN MISSIONS?*

*During our five years in Ecuador we haven't been serving alone. The Lord has provided us with a solid ministry team—a group of people who partner with us prayerfully and financially. Our next assignment with Mission Aviation Fellowship is in the United States, and we will continue to rely on that ministry team. In fact, we will need to increase the size of our ministry team, because we have moved from short-term to career staff status. MAF has asked us to raise a minimum monthly amount of \$5,700. We also must raise a one-time amount which will cover our move to Idaho, training, and a notebook computer for David to use when he is traveling—like the trip he made to Sumatra earlier this year. We need to reach this goal by December of this year.*

*We have come to realize that the relationship of the missionary and giver is equal and dependent. The missionary is not more important than the giver, or vice versa. The missionary depends on the giver to do the work, and the giver depends on the missionary in order to play a part in fulfilling the Great Commission.*

*We would like to extend the opportunity for you to partner with us in this ministry. Would you like to be a part of providing e-mail and Internet support to missionaries around the world? We are asking the Lord to lead us to people who will partner with us in this work—people who will pray regularly for us, and people who will commit to giving \$25, \$50, or \$100 a month. Currently we need \$2,400 more in monthly planned giving, and all of our \$8,000 one-time amount.*

*This is one scenario that will allow us to reach our full monthly support:*

*10 people who will give \$100 a month  
20 people who will give \$50 a month  
20 people who will give \$25 a month*

*Please join us in prayer to the Lord as we ask Him to provide the rest of our ministry team. If you would like more information, please talk to Rick or Lana Jackson. We can hardly wait to see how He provides—He always does!*

David and Ellyn are people that have sat in the same chairs you sit in Sunday after Sunday at Sierra Vista. They are part of the body that continues to make-up Sierra Vista. They are family. They have been called by our Lord to a vital ministry that spreads the Gospel. Let's encourage them!

### **Hebrews 10:24 The Message**

***“Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out. . .”***

God's Best To You! Christ's Blessing On You!

Lana Jackson, Elder of Mission & Outreach



**IN 1956, TWO  
WORLDS COLLIDED,  
BEGINNING A JOURNEY  
BEYOND FEAR,  
BEYOND VIOLENCE,  
BEYOND FORGIVENESS.  
A TRUE STORY**

## **BEYOND THE GATES OF SPLENDOR**

**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>  
6 P.M.**

in the Sierra Vista sanctuary

The award-winning documentary *Beyond the Gates of Splendor* chronicles how a violent and isolated South American (Ecuadorian) tribe was changed by five North American families who dared to contact them. It's a story of how faith can transform tragedy into triumph, how courage can overcome insurmountable obstacles, and how death can teach a family to live.

This special advanced screening edition has been provided to us in an abridged form so that we are best prepared for this impactful story to impact the world . . . again.

Look for *Beyond the Gates* on DVD this October and for the movie based on the same story, *End of the Spear*, to be in theaters in January 2006, just after the 50th remembrance anniversary of the missionaries' martyrdom.

**Bearing Fruit Communications** produces films of incredible true stories to inspire people to read and live out the truths found in the Bible. For more information, visit [www.beyondthegatesthemovie.com](http://www.beyondthegatesthemovie.com).

Here are some great ways to get involved with Family Ministry at Sierra Vista:

### *Promiseland Children's Ministry*

Starting September 11<sup>th</sup>, **Promiseland** Sunday School classes are back in full swing during the 10:45 service. We will continue to offer Kid's Worship during the 9 am services and a children's story at both services. Our FaithWeaver curriculum starts this Fall in Genesis and continues through the Old Testament until the Christmas season. **Currently, we are looking for more teachers to fill positions particularly in the upper elementary age groups.** Please pray for God's blessing and God's provision for this year's children's ministry.

### *MOPS*

Our **Mothers of Preschooler** program will reconvene on Thursday evenings beginning September 8 at 6:30 pm. MOP's is a wonderful outreach devoted to nurturing the distinct needs of new mothers. Cari Rumohr will continue to be our MOP's coordinator. If you would like more information regarding our evening MOP's, please call the church office @ 683-6742.

### *AWANA*

Awana Club kicks-off on Wednesday Sept 7th. This afterschool kids club meets from 3:15 to 5:15 pm every Wednesday during the school year. Awana is an international, Bible-centered children's and youth ministry providing local churches with weekly clubs and programs for preschool through high school. Our goal is to equip churches to reach children and teenagers, and their families, with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.

### *New Book Study: God is Closer Than You Think!*

Bring a sack lunch and join Pastor Paul for a six-week course studying John Ortberg's newest book, *God is Closer Than You Think*. Starting September 20, we will meet on Tuesday @ noon in the Parent's room. Come and experience the amazing presence of God even in the smallest detail of every day life. To order a book (\$12), call 683-1337.



### *Have you ever wondered...*

If God is always with us, why is he so hard to find?

If the Lord says his sheep know his voice, why don't I hear him more often?

If God is as relational as the Bible says, why does he seem so distant at times?

You want to believe that having a "personal relationship with God" is more than just words. You long to really know him and experience his presence. But how do you have a relationship with someone you can't see? Where is God?

Starting September 20<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to embark on a spiritual adventure. John Ortberg's newest book, *God is Closer Than You Think*, will be the focus of a six-week course led by Paul DePledge.

Bring a sack lunch and a friend or co-worker and see the amazing presence of God in even the smallest detail of every day life. Come and See for Yourself. Starting Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at noon.

**If you are thinking about joining our Sierra Vista family, we'll be having a "Come & See" membership class October 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Watch for sign-ups the end of September or call the church office to sign up, 683-6742.**

Watch your bulletin in the month of September. We're planning Sierra Vista's 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration & the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our new buildings on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>!





# September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Worship One Morning Service 9 a.m. Communion 4	<b>LABOR DAY</b> Church Office Closed Sierra Vista's Day Of Prayer For Pres Church (USA) 5	10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Prayer Tm 7 p.m. Mission Tm 7 p.m. Jr. High Group 6	10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:15 Awana 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 6:30 p.m. PNC 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 7	6:30 p.m. Worship Team 8	9	10
Worship 9, & 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. 11	7 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Stephen Ministers 12	10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Deacons 7 p.m. Jr. High Group 13	10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:15 Awana 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 6:30 p.m. PNC 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 14	15	16	12 p.m. Women's Fellowship Luncheon 17
Worship 9, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. 11 a.m. Seniors go to "My Fair Lady" Fresno 18	7 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 p.m. Stephen Ministers 19	10 a.m. Attendance 6:30 p.m. Session 7 p.m. Jr. High Group 20	10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:15 Awana 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 6:30 p.m. PNC 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 21	22	23	7 a.m. Men's Breakfast 6 p.m. movie <b>Beyond The Gates of Solendör</b> 24
Worship 9, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. 25	7 p.m. Boy Scouts 26	10 a.m. Attendance 7 p.m. Jr. High Group 27	10 a.m. Staff Mtg. 3:15 Awana 4:30 p.m. Bells Reh. 6:30 p.m. PNC 7 p.m. Choir Reh. 28	29	30	Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> We're Celebra ting 10 & 20 years! 29

**Join A**

**Bible  
Study  
Group**



**Sunday**

- ❖ 5 p.m. Study on Philip Yancey's book "Reaching For The Invisible God" led by John Ramsey in the Parent's Room. Call 642-3152
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evenings Bible Study at Dave & Linda Pound's home. Call 683-3365

**Monday**

- ❖ 7 p.m. College & Career study led by Ryan McKenzie. Call 683-1341.

**Tuesday**

- ❖ 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study in Coarsegold led by Betty Erford. Call 658-8139.
- ❖ 12 p.m. (beginning Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>) *God is Closer Than You Think* led by Pastor Paul in the Parent's Room. Call 683-1337.

**Wednesday**

- ❖ 9:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study led by Gene Johnston in the Parent's Room. Call 692-2711.
- ❖ 9:30 a.m. WOW (Women of the Word) "Experiencing God" in the Chapel. Call 683-8085.

**Saturday**

- ❖ 7 a.m. Promise Keeper Men's Bible Study led by John Ramsey in the Chapel. Call 642-3152.