

# MOVING SPIRIT

devotional newsletter of

*Village Community Church*

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## *Pastor's Parcel*

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My wife Rosemary and I watch old *Touched by an Angel* episodes and dramatized miracle-stories on two others old programs: *Could It Be a Miracle?* and *It's a Miracle!* Modern “streaming” technology keep these old TV shows available. Ongoing hope for help from above keep people watching them.

Before seeing these re-runs, my health challenges renewed my interest in NDEs (*near-death experiences*). Now I'm into books on angel encounters and miracles. Why this thirst for otherworldly things? Isn't there a danger of being *so heavenly minded that I'm no earthly good*? Not if God gives us a thirst for the supernatural.

If we're just chemicals that clumped by chance, then heavenly aspirations are a mere glitch of mindless evolution. But if we are *body-spirit* beings, created to inhabit both the world of *matter* and of *spirit*, then it shouldn't surprise us when the spiritual invades this world. In fact, it's a reminder of who we really are, and how prayer ties the two worlds together.



Then why don't we see more angels and miracles? Perhaps the best answer is in Christ's words to Thomas in [John 20:29](#), "*Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*" Healthy relationships are based on *trust*. That's why God wants us to be *people of faith*, and our prayers are a sign of it.

Angelic and miraculous interventions may happen to us more than we'll ever know in this life. Their hiddenness may be intentional, to teach us to pray and "*walk by faith and not by sight.*" Meanwhile, I *am* praying, but I'm also keeping my eyes open. — *Pastor David*

# *Parish Proclamations*

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## **What's Happening at VCC?**

We're hearing new pulpit voices! When Pastor Terry retired, he started a "preaching team" at our sponsoring church, Faith Legacy. The *FLC-VCC Preaching Team* serves as an organic bridge between VCC and FLC, helping to fill the gap left by Terry's retirement. He's part of that preaching team, but he now coordinates the blessing to our services from a variety of new speakers.

## **Prayer for Future Leadership**

Last year, after a realistic evaluation of VCC's needs for the future, we began asking God to send us a younger person or couple who have a heart for seniors and are equipped to serve them. That's our prayer-target for whoever eventually takes over the VCC Ministry Team. Though we hope God lets us serve VCC for several more years, it's best to pray now for the future, so that any transition in leadership will be smooth, if the need for it arises suddenly. As God leads you, join us in this prayer for VCC's future.

## *Personal Pulpit*

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### **(A Letter from Terry Brown)**

How the years pass. We see them come and go but we don't necessarily

keep track of them until we see an old picture or a grandchild getting married. Then it's upon us and we ask, "Where did the time go?" It happens to us all as the years go by.

I've had the blessed privilege to serve as assistant pastor in the ministry of VCC for 15 years next to Pastor David Hatton. I never in my life thought I'd have the experience I've had serving our LORD; so many blessed souls have come and gone with such richness added to my life, I've loved, and always will love them, and you.

You are all a precious flock of fellow brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. I've now officially retired from my pastoral position, but not from serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Who can?

Although I have no formal position as VCC anymore, it's still part of the overall ministry I now finding myself in; loving, praising and serving God in all I do, and enjoying Him forever.

I'm not sad about the passing years, because they gave me these treasures at VCC. Thank you, to those present and those who came before, for allowing me to serve you for so long. You have given me gifts I have no words to describe and I'm grateful for each one of you. Grace and peace! — *Pastor Terry A. Brown*

## *Pithy Pieces*

“There are two ways to live your life.  
One is as though nothing is a miracle.  
The other is as though everything is a  
miracle. — *Albert Einstein*

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It is our anxiety, our frustration, our  
futility, our guilt--not our curiosity--that  
must be assuaged and satisfied. In such a  
situation an intellectual solution, or even  
demonstration, may be quite irrelevant.  
An academic proof of God’s existence  
will not help a man who is overcome  
with futility or guilt. His problem is not  
ignorance or unclarity of mind, so much  
as it is turbulence and anxiety of spirit.  
What he needs, therefore, is not a  
demonstrated concept of deity in his  
mind, so much as an experienced  
encounter with Almighty God. For only  
in such an encounter, and living relation  
that flows from it, can a man find the  
courage and conviction, the purpose and  
inner strength to accept and to conquer  
the “mysteries” of existence. (Langdon  
Gilkey in *Maker of Heaven and Earth*)

## *Praise’s Portion*

### **The Flagman**

I was really looking forward to a  
weekend away with my family. As soon

as I got off work on Friday, my wife, 4-  
year-old daughter, and I started a 6-hour  
drive to our getaway retreat.

With an hour left to go, my daughter  
and wife were sleeping soundly, and I  
was fighting fatigue. I knew I shouldn’t  
be driving, but figured we were nearly  
there, so I continued. Then my eyes  
locked on a construction flagman in the  
middle of the road waving for me to turn  
left. My reaction time was not what it  
should have been, but I turned just in  
time to make the detour.

My heart was pounding like crazy.  
Fully awakened my near miss, I stopped  
the car to calm down and got out to see  
what kind of construction would be  
going on so late at night.

I was surprised to see no construction  
and no flagman. I walked over to see that  
the road had ended there. Not far beyond  
that was a cliff that we most certainly  
would have flown over had we not  
turned when we did. — *Ron Williams*  
(from Lynn Valentine’s book *Miracles*  
– *Inspiring Stories of Hope.*)

## *Prayer’s Priority*

### **A Prayer for Patience**

*by Helen Steiner Rice*

God, teach me to be patient,  
teach me to go slow,

Teach me how to wait on You  
when my way I do not know.  
Teach me sweet forbearance  
when things do not go right  
So I remain unruffled  
when others grow uptight.  
Teach me how to quiet  
my racing, rising heart  
So I might hear the answer  
You are trying to impart.

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When I pray, coincidences happen,  
and when I don't, they don't.  
— *William Temple*

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Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber!  
Holy angels guard thy bed!  
Heavenly blessings without number  
Gently falling on the head.

— *Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

## *Poetry's Place*

### **JESUS LOVES ME (for seniors)**

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(Chorus)

Yes, Jesus loves me. (x3)  
The Bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

(Chorus)

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song..  
Telling me in words so clear,  
“Have no fear, for I am near.”

(Chorus)

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

(Chorus)

## *Pearls of Prudence*

All I have seen teaches me to trust the  
Creator for all I have not seen.

— *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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A believer sees more on his knees than  
a philosopher sees on his tiptoes.

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A Christian should be a person who  
makes it easy to believe in Jesus.

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The most disappointed people in the  
world are those who are eager to get  
what's coming to them  
and finally end up getting it.

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All wise people share a common trait:  
an uncommon ability to listen.

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Merely having an open mind is  
nothing. The object of opening the  
mind, as of opening the mouth, is to  
shut it again on something solid.

— *G. K. Chesterton*

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This is the posture of fortune's slave:  
One foot in the gravy, one foot in the  
grave. — *James Thurber*

## *Punny Pastime*

When Bush was President, he was at  
an airport and noticed a man in a robe  
with a long white beard and flowing  
white hair. The man had a staff in one  
hand and some stone tablets in the other.

Bush approached him and inquired,  
“Aren’t you Moses?”

Ignoring him, the man turned his head  
to look up at the ceiling.

Positioning himself in front of him,  
he asked again, “Aren’t you Moses?”

The man kept staring at the ceiling.

President Bush then tugged on his  
sleeve, repeating, “Aren’t you Moses?”

Visibly irritated, the man turned to  
him and finally responded, “Yes I am.”

“Well, why didn’t you answer me?”  
asked the President.

“The last time I spoke to a Bush, I  
ended up spending 40 years in the desert.”

## *Present Perplexities*

### **Quotes on HEALING**

Your soul is your mind, your will and  
your emotions. When the Word gets  
rooted in there and begins to change  
your mind, it begins to heal your  
emotions and turn your will away from  
self-will and onto doing the will of  
God. — *Joyce Meyer*

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The time has come to turn to God and  
reassert our trust in Him for the healing  
of America. Our country is in need of  
and ready for a spiritual renewal.

— *Ronald Reagan*

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Non-violence is a powerful and just  
weapon. It is a weapon unique in  
history, which cuts without wounding  
and ennoble the man who wields it. It  
is a sword that heals.

— *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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Fear imprisons, faith liberates; fear  
paralyzes, faith empowers; fear  
disheartens, faith encourages; fear  
sickens, faith heals; fear makes useless,  
faith makes serviceable.

— *Harry Emerson Fosdick*

# Priceless Prose

## **Twinkies and Root Beer**

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his backpack with Twinkies and a 6-pack of root beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man sitting on a park bench feeding some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to him and opened his backpack. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie.

The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer.

Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and got up to leave. Before he had gone a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy came home a short time later, his mother was surprised by

the look of joy on his face. She asked him, *“What did you do today to make you so happy?”*

*“I had lunch with God,”* he replied, and before his mother could respond, added, *“You know what? God’s got the most beautiful smile I’ve ever seen!”*

Meanwhile, the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, *“Wow, Dad, what happened today that made you so happy?”*

He replied, *“I ate Twinkies in the park with God.”* Before his son could respond, he added, *“You know, he’s much younger than I expected.”*

— Author unknown

# Precious Principles

## **A Lesson in Trust**

A grocer was down in the cellar of his shop when he noticed his small son standing at the edge of the open trap door. He called up, “Here I am, Son, jump down, and I’ll catch you.”

“I can’t see you!” the boy hesitated.

“No, but I can see you. Trust me,” came the reply from his father’s voice.

The boy did so and landed safely in his father’s arms.

We are in a similar situation that

requires similar trust in our Heavenly Father. He is invisible, from an earthly viewpoint. But He sees us and our circumstances clearly. We can trust and obey His guidance.

## Past Pathways

Sometime around 1950, missionaries named Egbert and Hattie Dyk went to work at Tseltal, an Indian village near Santo Domingo. All but one resident eventually became a Christian, but since there was much persecution from neighbors, the entire village packed up, walked for a day, and established a Christian community in the new place.

It seems that a man named Domingo Hernandez lived near this area and hated his Christian neighbors. He was determined to burn their settlement and slaughter all its inhabitants. Late one night he organized his fellow villagers, prepared pitch-pine torches and canoes and led them stealthily down the hill and across the river.

But before they had a chance to attack, they saw a bright light shining through the window of every home in the Christian village. Then a strange luster shown over the entire area.

Domingo Hernandez and his men were so frightened that they turned and

scrambled down the hill, plunged into the river, swam across, and ran, soaking wet, the half-mile to their homes.

The next morning, as the women from Hernandez’s village were washing their clothes in the river, they called across to the Christian women on the other side.

“What were those strange lights in your huts last night?” they asked.

“What lights?” the Christian women replied. “We had no lights burning. We were all sleep.”— *Joan Wester Anderson*  
(from her book *Where Angels Walk*)

## Proverb Prescriptions

In the all-important world of family relations, three other words are almost as powerful as the famous “I love you.”

They are “Maybe you’re right.”

— *Oren Arnold*

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Some troubles come from wanting to have our own way; others come from being allowed to have it.

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No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

— *Eleanor Roosevelt*

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A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. — *Proverbs*



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## ***Serving Residents at Eskaton***

VCC meets each Sunday morning for a time of interdenominational Christian worship. We maintain *evangelical* faith in the Bible, expressing congregational unity through a united confession of the Apostles or Nicene Creed at our monthly Holy Communion. Our 1<sup>st</sup> service has a “sharing time” for prayer requests and praise testimonies. We hope residents without church homes, or who find travel to their own churches too difficult, will visit and enjoy our services.

Pastor David Hatton, a retired RN and

ordained Wesleyan minister, leads VCC’s Ministry Team, sponsored by Faith Legacy Church in Sacramento. Our team also includes Pastor Dawn Valerio and pianist Rosemary Hatton. For more information or requests for a pastoral visit, **our phone numbers** are:

Pastor David (cell): 605-9615

Pastor Dawn (cell): 764-2328

Rosemary & David’s home: 550-8200

Faith Legacy Church office, 487-5123

### **Regular Meetings:**

Worship, 10:00 a.m. [Music Room]

Worship, 11:15 a.m. [Assisted Living]

Communion – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month

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c/o Faith Legacy Church  
3532 Whitney Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95821

*Fall – 2019*