



- ▶ THE LORD'S PURPOSE.....1
- ▶ HOW ARE WE DOING?.....1
- ▶ VOLUNTEER CORNER.....2
- ▶ WANT TO VOLUNTEER? .....2
- ▶ COMPASSION MINISTRY .....3
- ▶ CELEBRATE RECOVERY.....3
- ▶ JESUS WITH SKIN ON!.....4
- ▶ SOUTH METRO VINEYARD .....4
- ▶ FOTV PRAYER NEEDS .....4

# Fruit of *the Vine*

**HUNGER HURTS... WE CAN HELP!**

## The Lord's Purpose

During the last months of World War II, the British conducted daily bombing raids over Berlin. The bombers would take off from an airstrip in England and fly surrounded by smaller fighter planes whose job it was to keep German fighters from attacking the bombers, which were easy targets.

One night after a successful bombing raid, as they were heading for the safety of England, the bombers were attacked by a large group of German fighter planes. Somehow, during the dogfight, one bomber found itself flying alone with no protection, and suddenly, a German fighter appeared out of nowhere. The crew of the bomber watched as the German plane moved closer and closer, until finally, it was in range. They prepared for the worst and watched helplessly as tracer bullets began spitting from the fighter. Bullets whizzed by them, over and under, until *Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud! Thud!* Five bullets slammed into the fuselage of the bomber near the gas tank. The crew braced for the explosion, but nothing happened. They could see fuel pouring from the bullet holes, but there was no explosion. Miraculously, they were able to make it back to their base and get safely off the plane.

A few hours after they had landed, one of the mechanics showed up in the crew's barracks. He had found five bullets inside the fuel tanks, crumpled but not exploded. He handed them to the pilot. The pilot carefully opened the shells and to the crew's amazement found each one empty of gunpowder. Inside one was a tiny wad of paper. When he unfolded the paper, he found a note which read, "*We are Polish POWs—forced to make bullets in factory. When guards do not look, we do not fill with powder. Is not much, but is best we can do. Please tell family we are alive.*" The note was signed by four Polish prisoners of war.

Five tiny bullets, out of millions and millions of bullets made during the war, made all the difference for the crewmen of a British bomber. (Mike Yaconelli, Messy Spirituality Pg. 108-109)

*Proverbs 19:12, "Many are the plans in a human heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."*

This is one of my favorite stories. Why? Because it describes a group of people who did what they could, gave the little they had, and it made a BIG difference in the lives of others. This is always how it is when we partner with God in the world.

Jesus is making a new people, a new way of life, and when we respond to what God has initiated, to the only way God has made for us to be made right with Him (through Jesus Christ's death of a cross, burial, and resurrection), we get a second chance, a new beginning, a clean slate, a fresh start, the old life is gone and the new is now coming and everything begins to change. God gives us a new nature, new desires, new life, we become passionate, joy filled, and life begins to have a whole new meaning and purpose behind it. We begin to do what God always intended, live in relationship with Him. When God is working in us and through us, when we begin to live with Jesus, for Jesus, like Jesus, in the power of Jesus, the little we have becomes more than we can imagine, the power within us become greater than anything ahead of us, and the difference we can make now has no limitations and has eternal significance. When God is in and behind something, for something, nothing can stop it.

We should always be mindful of the fact that what we can do on our own, giving away food or advice or resources is a good thing, it leaves an impression, it makes an impact, but it hardly has the ability to change or transform a person, only God can do that. And we should always remember that the reason we do what we do is to ultimately see people receive Christ and become whole.

This is the Lord's purpose and His purpose is the only thing in the end that will prevail, so let's grab hold of it, give our lives to it, and keep it as our motivation in all we are and all we do.

Be Blessed ... Greg Perkinson, Lead Pastor



## How Are We Doing?

This Year through June 30, 2009

- Families Served 4,953
- Pounds of Food Distributed 213,083
- Number of New Families 1,074

# Fruit of



*It Happened: "Last week I prayed for a lady about an "impossible" situation, telling her that our God is a God of possibilities. When I finished praying for her, as she hugged me, she told me that for the first time, she had hope." Deb*

*It happened: We had a young mother come to us for food. She was beaten badly by her boyfriend. Self conscious, scared and worn out she came in because she knew her daughter needed food. Two wonderful volunteers were there to minister to her and pray with her. We gave her several resources for advocates and shelters in the area that would help her through the legal system, obtain an order for protection and access for ongoing counseling. We're in contact with her several times a week. She is grateful to those who reached out to her and who still are. We offer food, however we offer something greater. We offer Jesus Christ. - Melissa*

## Volunteer Corner

... and he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus answered this question by telling a story of what a neighbor is. A neighbor has compassion, takes time to care for wounds, comforts then gives on-going support as needed. It doesn't matter who you are, or where you live, or the amount of income you make in life.

"Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

At South Metro Vineyard, we want to become the bridge that connects those who hurt with the extravagant love of Jesus. Serving alongside in the Fruit of the Vine is like spending time doing what Jesus himself would be doing—if you want to be intimately connected with him, come follow him!

Brian Geraty

## Thinking about Volunteering?

We need help on Saturdays from 9 to 11:30 am. And we need people to come in on Fridays to stock shelves and bag groceries. We also need people available during the week to pick up food at various locations in our area. If this is something you want to be a part of, please contact Beth Krzykowski at [smvc.fotv@gmail.com](mailto:smvc.fotv@gmail.com).



*It happened: One Saturday as I was finishing an intake, tears started rolling down the man's face. He couldn't look me in the eye and he began to walk away. One of the other volunteers interceded and prayed with him. It was an eye opening experience because it is so easy to forget how difficult it must be for a person to have to go to a food shelf for help. - Lia*

# the Vine

## Compassion Ministry

South Metro Vineyard Church (SMVC) has organized its mercy and servant ministries under the heading of "**Compassions**". We derive this title from the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37) and believe the Lord has called us, indeed all Christians to the "Jericho Road". We believe the Lord is moving in the land to answer the growing poverty trends to:

- The homeless
- The working poor
- The children of poverty
- The youthful poor
- The new ethnics
- The blue-collar poor
- The Graying America (elderly)
- The sick
- The prisoners

The call to the Jericho road (littered with the hurting, bleeding and desperate) from the parable

of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches:

- that mercy is essential and an answer to the question "What must I do to inherit eternal life?".
- that anyone in need is our neighbor and must be 'loved' and cared for.
- the work of mercy displays the righteousness of God in our relationships.

It is simply not enough to know one's duty, we must have compassion and meet the needs wholeheartedly.

Jesus also taught from Mat 25: 40 that compassion is a test of true faith and the basis for His judgment. Some people say it's about social justice, racial reconciliation, ending hunger and seeing every person treated with the dignity they deserve. We believe that if

we follow Jesus in what he is doing that we will see all of those things addressed and even more.

SMVC is in the process of organizing and implementing compassion ministries to those in need of jobs, food, healing, education and mercy. We will provide for these needs through a **Compassions** Wednesday night ministry starting July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Please visit the new resource desk in the Fireside room or ask a volunteer about our resource directory.

You can also read further about our ministry and resources in our newly launched website: [www.smvineyard.org](http://www.smvineyard.org). If you are a part of or want to become part of the SMVC family and/or have a call to provide a resource or volunteer please contact Melissa Hayes or Brian Geraty to get involved.

## Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is coming to our church. It will begin Tuesday, October 6th at 7 pm with a kick-off Bar-B-Q. Regular meetings will run every Tuesday from 7 to 9 pm. Childcare will be provided.

Celebrate Recovery is a 12-step program based on Christian principles - the 8 beatitudes (go to Mathew's gospel ... Chap. 5, Versus 1-12 ... to find them listed). Celebrate Recovery is for whatever stands between you and God, and you and people. Everyone is welcome. "Has your life flat-lined?" Celebrate Recovery is a healing ministry of the Holy Spirit that will jump start your life. The program will run through the middle of May. Commit this time to Christ and be amazed at how He can transform you!

If you have any questions or would like to talk more about the program, please contact Mary Kovacs at 952-423-3929 or by email at [recovery@smvineyard.org](mailto:recovery@smvineyard.org).



# Jesus with Skin On!

church experience centered around black churches.

SMVC's desire is to be both multi-generational and multi-ethnic. We do pretty well with the multi-generational part. On the ethnic side, we are a church of color, but that color is mostly white. We continue to want to improve on that part.

Here's what Joi said happened when she visited SMVC. She was greeted warmly ... she felt a great deal of love ... and she was prayed for after the service. How important was that prayer? What was prayed for, in particular her headaches, as well as other health issues, disappeared and have stayed "disappeared."

Shortly thereafter, her mother Edna moved here from Chicago. When Edna visited SMVC for the first time with Joi, she also loved her greeting, and says she felt nothing but love. Edna was looking for a community oriented church and she

knew she had found one at SMVC. Edna is now a twice a week volunteer at FOTV, and an important part of our church family.

What's this story about? It's about giving back. It's about love that starts with a "no strings attached" gift of food, and becomes a daily engagement with our Lord Jesus. It's about the reality that Jesus died for all of us no matter what age we are, what color we are, or what is the size of our checking account. We're here every Sunday if you care to join a group of people busy loving Jesus, and busy loving each other at the same time.

PS: I didn't say anything about Geeauna in this story. She's 15 and is home schooled. She also just got her driving permit. Watch out!

In short, we at SMVC want to be **"Jesus with Skin On"** for the people that come our way. Come join us in this great adventure!

This is a story of three ladies ... 3 generations ... Joi is a mom, Edna is her mother, and Geeauna is her daughter.

Back in 2006 Joi became hospitalized with a number of problems, one of which was an intermittent loss of eyesight. Even though she was released from the hospital, she couldn't drive from Burnsville to her home church in St. Paul.

Right about that same time she heard about an "18-Mealer" at SMVC, right around the corner from her home. Two things happened at that "18-Mealer." Joi received the food she badly needed, and she also received a heartfelt invite to a Sunday service at SMVC.

Joi was a little bit concerned about visiting SMVC ... did I mention we're talking about a black family here, whose

## PRAYER NEEDS



- Provision for Families affected by job loss and home loss
- Healing and Spiritual Growth for our Guests
- For the Success of the new Resource Directory
- Wisdom for our Leaders
- Strength and Health for our Volunteers
- More Storage for Food
- God's continued Provision for Food and Goods

We would like to say that **Prayer** is what supports the growth of the Food Shelf and wellbeing of our Volunteers and Guests.

We invite Church Members, Volunteers, and Guests to join us from 8—9 AM every Saturday morning for Prayer. We also have **Prayer Cards** available at the Hospitality Counter for our Guests to be able to write down their Prayer Needs. Each card will be prayed over individually. We are privileged to **Partner with God** in this way ...

Kim Geraty

## South Metro Vineyard Church

- Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am
- Vineyard Kids (Infant & Toddler Nurseries, Preschool and K-5th Grade) every Sunday during the Worship Service
- Student Life Ministries (grades 6-12) Wednesdays 7:00—8:30 pm
- Prayer & Intercession Saturday mornings at 8:00 am.

**Fruit of the Vine Food Shelf**  
 13798 Parkwood Drive  
 Burnsville, MN 55337  
 Tel: 952-892-1000  
 Email: smvc.fotv@gmail.com