

The BELL TOWER

VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Lead Where You Are (Again)

Last August, as we had the privilege of hosting the Global Leadership Summit, over 350 people were challenged to grow in their faith and become better leaders in God's kingdom. It was our first time being a satellite host site for the GLS and when we committed to do it we were not completely sure how it would impact us as a church and if we would have all the resources to pull it off. To say the least, we were thrilled at how all of you, the faithful people of VCC, rallied to invest, not only in the future of our church, but the future of churches all across the East Bay. It was a rousing success. The core team that coordinated all our efforts was so excited about how things went that they all agreed to serve again.

Now we are only a few months away from hosting again. On August 8 and 9, we will open our doors and invite as many as we can to join in this unique opportunity to learn from compelling people who have themselves learned much about leadership. Once again it will take an all-church team effort to give this gift to our community, but the rewards will be great.

Our church theme for 2013 has been "Press On." In Philippians 3:14 Paul says that he wants to "press on toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." There is always room to grow and we want to continue on that path ourselves. I gave you three challenges for the year:

- Read and reflect on Scripture
- Cultivate relational environments that stimulate spiritual growth
- Find somewhere to serve

The GLS fits these goals perfectly. At the Summit you will receive Biblical challenges that should resonate in your soul and be food for thoughtful reflection on how

God is forming you. You will get to do this in the context of a group of people committed to growing in their faith, and it provides an opportunity to serve as you volunteer to help us host this event.

In conclusion, let me remind you that this conference isn't just for people who hold official leadership positions. Some of you hold positions of leadership. Others of you may one day step into such a role. However, leadership is not about positions, but about influence. All of us are leaders in one way or another as we influence those around us for Christ. The GLS provides us all an opportunity to grow. As Bill Hybels loves to say, "Everyone wins when a leader gets better."

So, mark your calendars. Make plans to attend. Watch for opportunities to serve as we share those in the weeks to come. Most of all pray that the church will be strengthened and Christ exalted as we host the GLS.

Danny Danny Hall
SENIOR PASTOR



Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,
and he will give you everything you need. MATTHEW 6:33

CONSUMED FOR CHRIST!

'XTREME CAMP '13

Webster's definition of consume includes the following: 1) to do away with completely, destroy as by fire; 2) to spend wastefully, to squander, to use up (time, energy, money, etc.); 3) to eat or drink up especially in great quantity, devour; 4) to enjoy avidly, a consuming interest; 5) to engage or absorb fully as with curiosity; 6) engross or obsess as with envy; 7) to utilize as a customer, goods and services. So what does CONSUMED for Christ mean?

As with many words in the English language you can be consumed for good or for bad. CONSUMED for Christ might mean devouring God's word, the holy Bible or loving the unlovely people in your life. On the other side of the coin you can be consumed with things that draw your attention away from God. They might include spending lots of time on social media, worrying about your appearance, over-eating or even over-achieving. The focus of 'Xtreme camp this year is to help our students understand the difference between being CONSUMED for Christ versus being consumed by the world.

Learning to be CONSUMED for Christ is only one of many 'Xtreme activities your middle and/or high school student will be involved in when they attend this year's 'Xtreme Camp at Alliance Redwoods. Your students will enjoy sports and crazy games together. They will hear each other's stories of faith and, best of all, they will hear God's word and learn about His passion for their lives. At camp, many students find themselves CONSUMED for Christ as they make the commitment to trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Send your children. Invite their friends. Invite your neighbor's children. You never know what will happen for Christ under the redwoods!

High School
Camp

June 16-21

**Register online now
for early discount!**

\$295 until 4/11

\$330 until 5/19

\$360 after that

Middle School
Camp

June 22-27

Clean Cars = Mission Trip!

When we say mission trip, you don't automatically think "clean car". However, that is just the mindset we would like you to have!

On Saturday, May 4, from 8:00AM until noon the high school students will be available here at the church to wash and shine your car. The car wash is free. They are asking for donations to help send them to Ensenada in early August to build or repair homes and run vacation Bible school for the children of this rural area of Mexico.

So come one, come all. Bring the family car, the vacation vehicle, the work pickup and get them cleaned here at Valley Community Church in the side parking lot. Every dollar you donate will go towards sending our high school mission team back to Mexico to continue the ongoing work that they have been doing for nearly 25 years.

If you are unable to make it on Saturday and would like to make a contribution, donations can be left in the church office Monday through Friday during office hours (8:30AM to 4:30PM) or with the Sunday receptionist.

Ensenada Mission
Trip Fundraiser
Car Wash

Saturday, May 5
8:00AM - 12:00PM

Every Blessing You Pour Out Turns Back to Praise!



Respite Care Event

volunteers needed, Saturday, May 11

Do you need blessings poured into your life while pouring some out onto others? Valley Community Church will be hosting a Respite Care event on May 11. We invite you to come and be blessed while blessing others.

What is respite? Respite is a time for parents of disabled children to take a few hours off from the routine and challenges of daily caring for a loved one with a disability. When you are raising a child with disabilities you are on call for that child 24/7. Very seldom do parents get a chance to take a break and have time to just focus on themselves, each other, or other children in the home. We, as a church, have the opportunity to reach out to our community and other neighboring communities and invite these families to come and be cared for by our loving and caring servants.

We will have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus while we love and play with these children and start building relationships with these families. Come join us on Saturday, May 11, from 11:45AM to 4:15PM as we love on “the least of these”. We need Christ servants to buddy up with the special needs kids, K-8, and their siblings for some good old-fashioned fun.

You can serve together as a small group, with your family or by yourself. Training and lunch will be provided from 11:45AM until 12:45PM. If you can love and play, then you already have most of the training you need. Our precious kids will be coming from 1:00PM until 4:00PM. For more information or to sign up contact Shelly Welsh at welshx4@att.net or at 925-580-4392 or Lisa Lee Akacosos at akacosos@att.net. Forms and event details can be found at vcclive.org under [Upcoming Events](#).

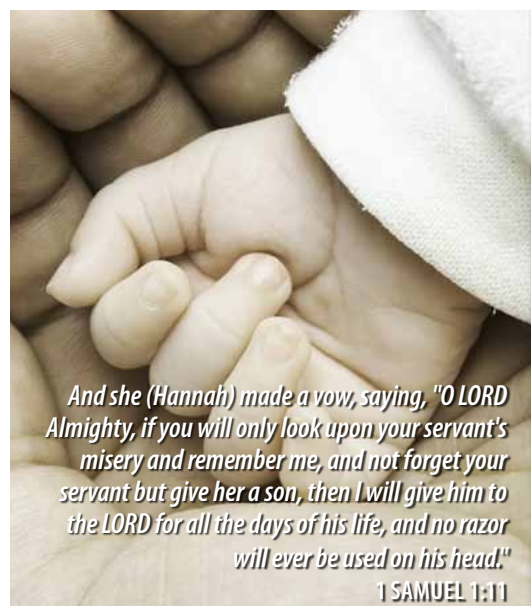


Baby Dedications Are Coming

At VCC we practice the custom of baby dedication. This is a public declaration where believing parents make a commitment to join with the church community in bringing their child up in a godly manner. This commitment to the Lord is made by both the parents and the congregation to see that the child is given a Christian worldview until the time that he or she can trust in Jesus Christ on their own.

Our next baby dedication will take place on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. Baby dedication preparation classes will take place on Sunday, April 28. If you are interested in having your child dedicated, please watch the bulletin and sign up on the Communications Slip or call the church office to get on the class roster.

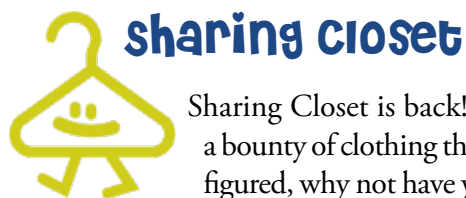
The class is required for all first-time parents dedicating their child. It will be held during our second service on April 28, in the Fireside Room. Babies are welcome; older children may stay in their Sunday school class as necessary. If you have a toddler who has never been dedicated you may have them dedicated as well.



And she (Hannah) made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head!"

1 SAMUEL 1:11

Kidz Rock: Children's Ministries has two amazing programs for your families



sharing closet

Sharing Closet is back! Knowing that we all have a bounty of clothing that no longer fits our kids, we figured, why not have you bring it in and exchange it for something that does fit? So start cleaning out those dressers and closets!

The Sharing Closet will be open on Wednesday, May 1, from 6:00PM to 8:00PM and again on Thursday, May 2, from 9:00AM to 2:00PM in the Kidz Connection portable. We are accepting children's sizes newborn through size 14 as well as new or gently used children's books to exchange. Please drop items off by April 29, in the Kidz Connection portable or outside the church office in the bin. Invite your neighbors and friends to participate...all are welcome!



FAB2BFEM

Fab2BFem is back by popular demand. It is a seminar taught by Amy Sluss, a registered nurse. We will be talking to our fourth through sixth grade girls about body changes and the realities of being female. The sessions are designed for one-on-one interaction between the attending adult and child.

Level 1 is on Friday, May 10 from 5:00 to 8:30PM and is for 4th-6th grade girls and gives them tools and tips, and connects them with adult women in a powerful and positive way. This level is crafted to build self-esteem, positive body image and a healthy sense of "being a girl".

Level 2 is on Saturday, May 11 from 10:00AM to 1:30PM and is for 6th-7th grade girls (must attend Level 1 first) and is on beauty and body-image, emotions, relationships, and sex (very mild and introductory). Both levels provide a warm and comfortable environment and the experience between adult woman and young girl sets the stage for future conversations and positive growth as your daughter transitions to adulthood.

Online registration will begin in April. If you have any questions, please call Cheryl Blea at 846-6622x406.

Spring dates to make note of

Sharing Closet: May 1-2

HS car wash fundraiser: Saturday, May 4, 8:00AM

International dinner: Saturday, May 4, 5:00PM

Missions Sunday: Sunday, May 5, 9:00AM (ONE SERVICE)

HS graduation banquet: Friday, May 10

Growing Up Female, level 1: Friday, May 10

Growing Up Female, level 2: Saturday, May 11

Respite Care event: Saturday, May 11

Mother's Day/baby dedications: Sunday, May 12

Shadow Cliffs baptism & picnic: Sunday, May 19

Missions Conference *by Karen Reedy*



Last year as a new member of the Missions Committee, I enthusiastically agreed to be on the subcommittee to organize the May 2012 Missions Conference. I will now sheepishly admit that I had not attended any previous conferences so I really wasn't sure what to expect. After months of preparation, I was so blessed to see the conference in action.

First of all the International Dinner on Saturday night was a feast for the eyes and the stomach. Food from around the world was prepared using special recipes given to willing cooks and served with love by smiling volunteers. Saturday night's program followed dinner with an emphasis on fair trade and the small things each of us can do to make a positive impact in the world. The Sunday service continued the theme by reminding us

that God has a plan for us and, like our missionaries, we just need to be willing to listen to His call. I thought that would be enough encouragement but the best was yet to come. The breakout sessions, hosted by our international and local missionaries, along with a special session on what individuals can do to let God's light shine through us in our local communities, provided tangible evidence of what the extended family of VCC is doing in the world.

So it is with genuine enthusiasm that I and the Missions Committee invite you to attend the 2013 Missions Conference on Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5. Our theme this year is "Crossing the Lines". Our kickoff is the wonderful dinner (international of course!) on Saturday evening at 5:00PM. This evening is for families of all



ages. Come join the fun. This year, the program that follows will feature Dr. Mark Young, President of Denver Seminary. He is a theological educator and pastoral leader with thirty years of global ministry experience. In addition, Safe Families for Children will speak about their mission. They are a Christian organization that provides a safe alternative to child welfare custody thus significantly reducing the number of children entering the child welfare system.

On Sunday morning, May 5, we will have only one service on at 9:00AM. Dr. Mark Young will again be our featured speaker. Also, Pablo and Martha Garcia, of Link International in Ensenada, will update us on their recent mission activities.

Some great breakout sessions will follow the service led by many of our missionaries including: Ken and Jeanette Thralls, Dr. David Eckman, Debbie Smith, Michael Towson, Dennis and Debbie Hollenbeck, Radha and Samen Manickham, Whitney Elliott and Hagar International. We will also feature a Redeeming Justice session that

continued on the next page



will include local community outreach organizations. Tables will be set up in the Gathering Place so that you can discover new information about our international and local missions as well as several community organizations. A light lunch will be available for you to enjoy as you fellowship with VCC partners from around the globe. Come join us to celebrate VCC's partnership with missionaries both near and very far from the place we call home.



International Dinner – The Hall

Saturday, May 4, 5:00PM

Cost: adults, \$10; middle school, high school & college students, \$5; children 3-11, \$2; maximum for immediate family, \$30. Tickets available at the Gathering Place on Sundays beginning April 7.

How you can help...

We have a variety of opportunities available to help with the dinner. Please contact Valerie Laws, kvalaws@sbcglobal.net or Annie Foyle, setfree728@gmail.com if interested.

Please pray for safe travels for our missionaries and for the entire weekend of events.

