

# The BELL TOWER

VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

CELEBRATING  
WHAT GOD IS  
DOING!

Our study of Luke on Sunday mornings is giving us a fresh look at the story of Jesus. What we have seen so far reminds us that Jesus came to love and restore people. His call to his followers is to join him in extending love, forgiveness, and healing to broken, hurting, and sinful people. This call to invest in the lives of people with the love of Christ is the capstone of our Spiritual Growth Pathway. As we grow in our faith, connecting with God and others, engaging in deeper, life transforming relationships, and serving each other and our world, we become the kind of people who can truly make a difference in the lives of others. The good news is that in and through the people of VCC this multiplication is happening.



This spring we have the opportunity to celebrate what God is doing in two key ways. First, is our Missions Weekend, May 14-15. Stop right now and mark those dates on your calendar as I don't want you to miss any of it. Let me share with you some of the highlights of this event. It all begins with our International Dinner on Saturday evening. You will enjoy fabulous food from around the world and also get the opportunity to hear stories of what God is doing in and through a number of exciting ministries both locally and globally. You will also hear an inspiring message from our guest speaker for the weekend, Dr. Hans Finzel. Hans is a longtime friend and colleague who is on the cutting edge of world missions in his role as President of World Venture, the mission organization that Ginger and I had the privilege of serving with for many years. Hans is a great speaker and you won't want to miss it.

On Sunday morning we will all be worshipping together at 9:00AM as there will be only one service that day. Once again we will hear great stories and another challenge from Hans. After that you will have the opportunity to choose to attend a variety of breakout sessions where you can meet some great people and hear their experiences in ministry both locally and abroad (see details on page 3). All of this is child-friendly and there will be something for everyone.

The second opportunity we have to celebrate God's work in and through us is the sharing of our own stories with each other. I have recently heard any number of stories of people from VCC "walking across rooms" to share Christ's love with people. I've heard stories from our sports leagues, from the work place, from neighborhoods and more. As appropriate, we want to share these stories with each other. To that end we are developing ways to facilitate this, so stay tuned and join in as this develops. Also, we are offering a series of two workshops, My 100 Words, in early May to help you share your story with friends, neighbors, and co-workers. See the article on the next page for details.

It's going to be a great spring and summer. I'm looking forward to what God is going to do as we work together to see lives being transformed in our Christ-centered community.



*Danny*  
 Danny Hall  
 SENIOR PASTOR





Get prepared for a special Missions weekend by purchasing tickets to the dinner and attending one or two special sessions on Sunday morning.

## Missions Dinner—Saturday, May 14

*Dinner, 5:00-6:30PM*

- Tickets available between and after services while supplies last—adults \$10; students (6th thru college) \$5; children (3-11) \$2; maximum for immediate family \$30
- Food from 5 continents and a chance to dine with our visiting missionaries

*Program, 6:30-7:30PM*

- Featuring Dr. Hans Finzel  
AUTHOR AND PRESIDENT OF WORLD VENTURE
- John and Jana Turns  
DOCTORS GIVING BACK
- Drew Hester  
UNCHARTED WATERS SPORTS MINISTRY
- Kristina Thompson  
LIVE IN PEACE
- Music
- Childcare (Birth to K, 5:00-8:00PM) & children's program (1st to 5th, 5:15-8:00PM)  
*NOTE: Children are to be fed ahead of time or can eat at the dinner before going to childcare*



Food from Thailand



Food from Mexico

## Missions Conference—Sunday, May 15

*Service, 9:00-10:15AM* (Only one service)

- Message from Dr. Hans Finzel
- SKYPE session with Rob & Geri Sullivan in Nigeria
- Missionary introductions
- Children's Sunday school as usual

*Program, 10:15AM-1:00PM*

- Missionary tables (open all morning)
- Mission presentations (2 sessions, 10:30-11:30AM & 11:30AM-12:30PM) Choose from twenty compelling and thought-provoking presentations including:
  - Local & foreign missionaries, up close & personal
  - NextGen missionaries
  - SKYPE calls: Four missionaries; four continents
  - Discussion of modern day slavery (human trafficking in the Bay Area and abroad)  
*NOTE: Map and schedule with room numbers will be provided*
- Childcare (You may leave your child in their classroom until 12:30PM)
- Lunch provided (hamburgers and hotdogs) served from 10:30AM-1:00PM



Guest speaker, Dr. Hans Finzel

# Missionary Needs

The first need of all of our missionaries is our prayer support. Please introduce yourself to one of our missionaries and ask them what you can pray for.

The missions committee identified several specific needs of our missionaries that you may be led to contribute towards. Drop a check in the offering or leave it in the office with the missionaries name on the memo line followed by needs (John Doe needs).

## *Pablo and Martha Garcia*

- Three homes for poor members of their church community, each would cost \$400 to provide bare minimum living conditions.

## *Rahda Manickham*

- Motorcycle for the Training Center in Cambodia costs \$1,600

## *Bonita Thompson*

- High school costs are about \$150-\$200 a month for a government "free" education for each girl.
- Laptop Portable Computer \$600, our current computers are six years old (contact Ginger Hall about computer)

## *Jim Whelchel*

- Jim coordinates activities at the Foundations for Christian Leadership School in the Haryana State in India. Each graduate must have planted a new house church. As a graduation gift the graduates are presented with a study Bible in Hindi and a DVD player so they can present the Jesus film in village homes, with a combined cost of \$40 – 200 graduates each year.

## *David Eckman*

- What God Intended Ministries places a translated booklet of "Experiencing the Father's Embrace" with Chinese teachers and students at a cost of \$1.50.

## *Adam Nixon and Andrew Burger*

- Expenses for new staff training sessions

## *Shepherd's Gate Shelter*

- You can bring items to the Missions Conference on Missions Sunday or you can drop them off at Shepherd's Gate, Livermore anytime during the year.

Gift cards (grocery, Walmart, Target, Costco, Home Depot, Lowes, etc.)

BART and Wheel's tickets

Recessed light bulbs (60 watt)

Juice

Fresh fruit and vegetables

Cereal

Canned fruit and vegetables

Frozen chicken, beef, ground beef, pork

Laundry detergent; dryer sheets; dish soap

Sponges

Trash bags (10, 13, & 33 gal.)

Lysol Spray; Pine Sol; bleach

Cleaning supplies

Napkins/tissues/paper towels/toilet paper

Folded paper towels (green & white box)

Cleaning supplies

Toilet seat covers

Feminine products

Women's underwear

Deodorant

Coffee maker

Can opener

Hand mixer

Blender

Toaster

Journals; copy paper

Latex gloves (lg/xlg)

Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9v)

Postage stamps

Brother "TZ" laminated tape, 1/2 inch

White correction tape/liquid

Printer cartridge (Canon #40, #41 & Lexmark 314, #15)





## BAPTISM & PICNIC

**Sunday, May 22, 12:00-3:00PM**

**ADULT BAPTISM CLASS**

Sunday, May 15, 1:00-2:30PM,  
Fireside Room

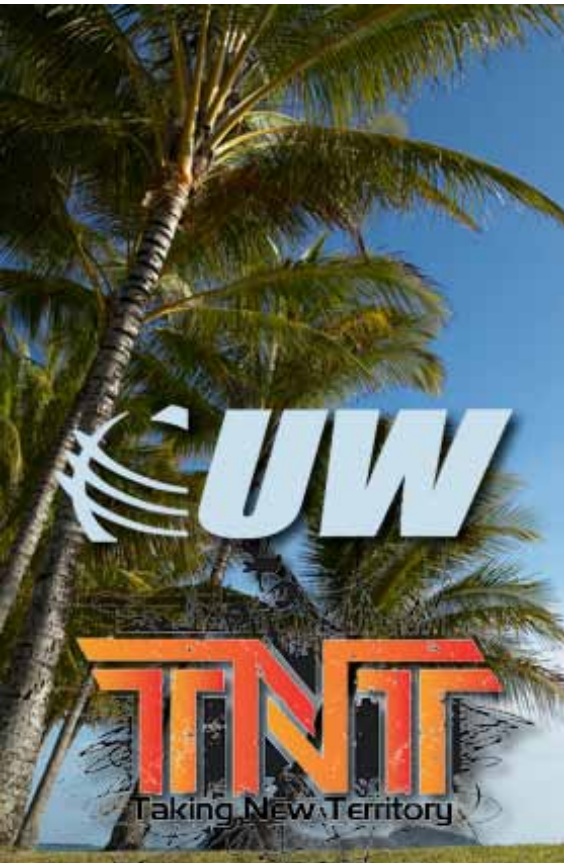
**YOUTH BAPTISM CLASS**

Sundays, May 1 and May 8,  
10:45AM-12:00PM, Room B214

### *The Baptism of Jesus*

*Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him. After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." MATTHEW 3:13-17*

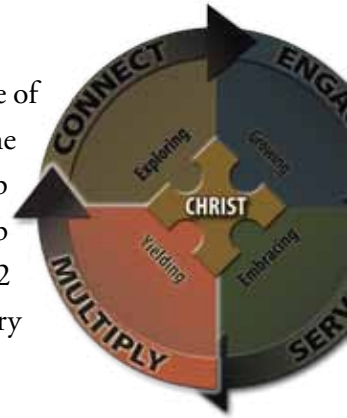
## **Aloha!** Middle School Mission Trip with Uncharted Waters



TNT is excited to have the opportunity to serve the people of Oahu. TNT will be running sports camps for low income families and we will be doing this through a partnership with Uncharted Waters Sports Ministry. The mission trip is a 7-day journey to Waianae Oahu, Hawaii from July 2 through July 9. The goal is to share Christ with elementary aged children through testimony and service.

During past Sports Camps we have seen transformation in the lives of our middle school students and the students we have served. If you are interested in sending your middle school child on this trip, you may pick up forms in the youth office.

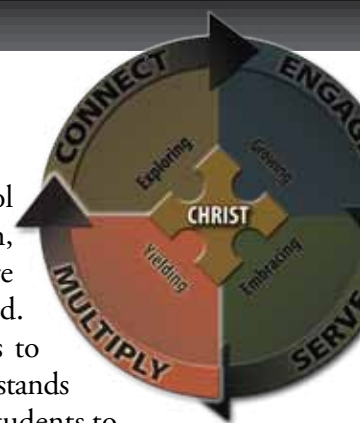
The cost for the trip is \$350 plus the cost of airfare. A deposit of \$150 (towards the \$350) is due immediately and is non-refundable. Airline tickets will be purchased by the end of May. Once purchased, there will be no refund for airfare. No refunds will be given after June 10, for any part of the trip. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Cochran at [rcochran@vcclive.org](mailto:rcochran@vcclive.org) or give him a call at 846-6622.



# Ensenada—La Cenicienta del Pacífico



Summer is such an exciting time for our middle school and high school ministries. It is packed with outreach, worship, and fellowship. Many of our students are transformed over the summer by experiencing God. They have the opportunity to learn what it means to have faith and claim it as their own. Each trip we offer stands alone in its unique identity and purpose in calling students to Christ. They return with a new respect for what it means to be Christian and to live a Christian life.



One of the trips that impacts students in a big way is our high school ministries trip to Ensenada. While Ensenada is known as “La Cenicienta del Pacífico” or the Cinderella of the Pacific, don’t let the name fool you. In the outlying areas of the city live some of the poorest inhabitants of our world. After the initial culture shock, students start to see what is really important in life. It isn’t the super-cool electronics, the car, and pool parties they have left behind. Instead it is the relationships that they build with the Mexican men, women, youth and children that they meet and especially with one another.

Students and leaders work hard. Mornings are spent on construction. They may be starting a new home or adding a second room onto one that was begun the previous summer. They help with repairs on and around the church. Some groups are assigned to prepare meals and carry water to the workers. They run daily Vacation Bible Schools. In the late afternoon they get cleaned up and break into groups which go out to different locations where they hold VBS for the local children. They lead worship and share the Gospel through Bible stories. Like our own VBS, they have a craft activity that they prepare before their departure and have the children complete during their VBS time.

Each evening there is a campfire. During this time there is prayer and sharing. Many of our kids share their testimony with fellow students. It is a time of caring and loving one another; a time of healing and growth. If you are looking for an authentic way for your child to connect to their faith, I would highly recommend this trip. It is chaperoned by caring parents—many of whom have made the trip before. Your child is well cared for as they learn to become more like Jesus Christ.



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IMPORTANT DATES		
Ensenada 2011 • Saturday, July 23 to Sunday, July 31, 2011		
WHEN?	WHAT?	WHERE?
Wednesday, May 11, 8:00PM	Parent meeting	The Hall
Wednesday, May 18	Registration due	
Saturday, May 21, 8:00AM	Car wash	Parking Lot
Wednesday, June 1, 6:00-7:30PM	Mandatory meeting	Seminar Room
<b>Wednesday, June 1, 6:00-7:30PM</b>	<b>Parent notary signing</b>	<b>Youth Office</b>
June 12-17	2011 HS 'Xtreme Camp (required to attend)	
Monday, June 27, 6:00-9:00PM	Mandatory meeting	The Hall
Monday, July 11, 6:00-9:00PM	Mandatory meeting	The Hall
Monday, July 18, 6:00-9:00PM	Mandatory meeting	The Hall
Friday, July 22, 9:00AM 'til done	Packing & practice	The Hall
Saturday, July 23, 6:00AM	Departure	The Hall

*Cost is \$900, until June 1, down payment \$100 and balance due June 2. On June 2 cost increases to \$1000 and is payable in total. If you are a member or regular attendee of VCC Student Ministries, the church will cover \$400 of the cost of the trip for you.*

**REGISTER ONLINE  
AT VCCLIVE.ORG  
BEGINNING MAY 1!**

**HERE COMES SUMMER!**

If you are a student in Kidz Connection at VCC that means REJOICE! If you are a parent you may be thinking about ways to keep your elementary age children occupied during the long summer months. This summer we have some exciting returning events planned for our students. Parents, here is an opportunity to keep your children connected to God while spending time with friends. Please plan ahead so your children can attend these events. Events are for children who are exiting Kindergarten through fifth grade this June.

Registration for all events begins Sunday, May 1. This year you can register and pay with a credit card at the Valley Community Church website, [vcclive.org](http://vcclive.org).

KICK OFF the Summer event Sunday, June 5 during first and second service. Bring a friend(s) to this surprise event!



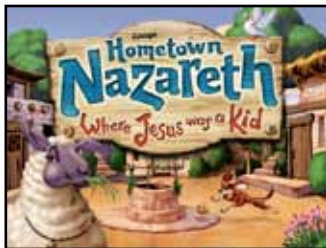
### **Sports Camp, June 20-24**

Sports Camp is from 4:00-7:00PM. Choose basketball, cheer, or soccer. The cost is \$65.00 per child. Sports Camp Team 45 is for 4 and 5-year-olds from 9:00AM-12:00PM and is \$80 per child.



### **Blank Canvas, June 28-29**

Two days of drama, music, and art and will run from 9:00AM until 4:00PM. The cost is \$30 per child. Space is limited to 30 students.



### **Vacation Bible School, July 11-15**

We have another great theme this year that is sure to provide lots of fun and excitement. We will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00AM and end our morning in the Sanctuary at 12:00 noon. Parents are invited to join us in the Sanctuary for our daily closing ceremonies. Cost is \$25 per child.

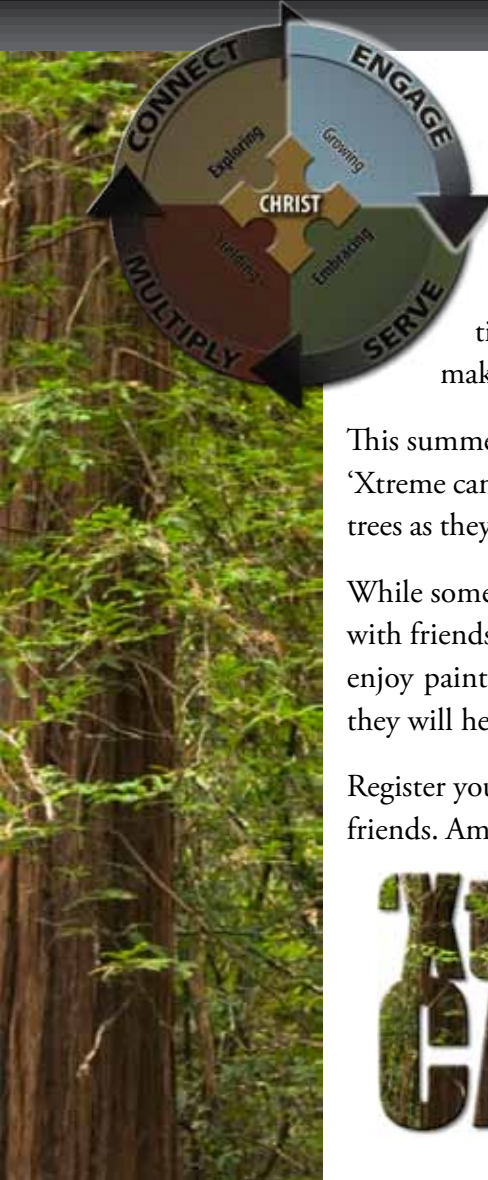
During the month of May we will have signups for VBS volunteers and snack donations. Watch the Bulletin and *Keeping Connected* for more information.



### **Wild and Wacky Wednesday, July 20 & 27**

This is a "surprise and trust" field trip for students. We will depart from the church at 9:00AM and return your children to you at the church at 4:00PM. The cost for each trip is \$30 per child.

Please keep us in your prayers as we move into this next season. It will be exciting to see what God has in store for our students this summer.



## Twitter or Tweet?

Our children spend a lot of time using modern electronics. They text, and chat, browse the App Store, then download the latest apps, follow their friends on Facebook and the things that interest them on Twitter. In this fast-paced world they have little time to make eye contact, hold long one-on-one conversations, spend lazy afternoons making new friends and building relationships that will last a lifetime.

This summer, give them a break and as Tweety Bird would say, “give them a tweet.” Send them to ‘Xtreme camp and give them the gift of redwood trees. Let the twitter they hear be the birds in the trees as they wake up each morning. Let the smells they smell be those of forest pines and fresh air.

While somewhat rustic, the experience is not totally primitive. Your kids will come and hang out with friends, play crazy games, scale climbing walls, and participate in the ropes course. They will enjoy paintball fun (additional cost), volleyball, basketball, foosball and swimming. Best of all, they will hear God’s word and learn about His passion for their life!

Register your child now for the best week they’ll have all summer! Encourage them to invite their friends. Among the redwood trees, they will make connections—with God—and with each other.



### High School ‘Xtreme Camp

Sunday, June 12 through Friday, June 17

### Middle School ‘Xtreme Camp

Saturday, June 18 through Thursday, June 23

### Register Early & Save!

Cost is \$320, April 24-May 21; \$350 from May 22 on. Register and pay online at [vclive.org](http://vclive.org).

## May & Summer Calendar

**Tuesdays, May 3 & 10, 7:00PM** My 100 Words Seminar

**Friday, May 6, 6:00PM** High School Grad Banquet

**Saturday, May 7, 8:00AM** Middle School Missions Car Wash

**Sunday, May 8** Mother’s Day/Baby Dedications

**Saturday, May 14** Missions Weekend/International Dinner

**Sunday, May 15** Missions Sunday

**Saturday, May 7, 8:00AM** High School Missions Car Wash

**Sunday, May 22** Shadow Cliffs Picnic and Baptism

**Sunday, June 5** Kidz Kick Off the Summer

**June 10 to June 27** Bangkok Mission Trip

**June 12 to June 17** High School ‘Xtreme Camp

**June 18 to June 23** Middle School ‘Xtreme Camp

**June 19 to July 4** Spain Mission Trip (departure dates vary)

**June 20 to June 24** Elementary Sports Camp

**June 28 and June 29** Blank Canvas

**July 5 to July 7** A.B.L.E.

**July 11 to July 15** Vacation Bible School

**July 11 to July 22** Guatemala Mission Trip

**July 20 and/or July 27** Wild and Wacky Wednesdays

**July 23 to July 31** High School Ensenada Trip

**August 7 to August 13** Adult Ensenada Trip