

SPECIAL END OF THE YEAR OFFERING

Every year, we encourage every person to give a thanksgiving offering to God for all that He has done in this year--and there was A LOT! Please pray about how much He wants you to give as we celebrate His faithfulness and provision in our lives. The special offering must be postmarked by December 31 and special offering envelopes for a tax deduction are available. Mahalo!!

EXPLICIT 21 DAY JOURNALS \$15

Experience God through this interactive collection of memoirs from people's experiences -truthful accounts that are REAL, RAW, AND RELEVANT. If you're looking for the perfect gift for a young person, this is it! You can purchase Journals today and next week Sunday following each service.

KIDS' CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE DRESS REHEARSAL SAT, DEC 22 // 4-5:30PM MMS CAFE

CONDOLENCES FOR THE HIGA FAMILY

We want to extend our condolences and prayers for Casey Higa and his family for the loss of his father Minoru Higa.

CONDOLENCES FOR THE ARIMOTO FAMILY

We want to extend our condolences and prayer for Gary Arimoto and his family for the loss of his mother Katherine Arimoto who passed away last week Sunday.

THE HARD THINGS BRING VICTORY

Pastor Marion Logan | December 16, 2018

Forgiveness is Hard

We learned two weeks ago from Pastor Daniel that seeking forgiveness is the weapon that disarms the enemy of our soul because he has no defenses against it. This past week he spoke another great sermon about releasing forgiveness. We disarm the enemy when we humble ourselves and apologize but we begin to take ground from the enemy as we release forgiveness.

BOTH ARE HARD.

I remember when I was dating Charis and she asked me if I knew "The 10 Magic Words"—which are "I'm sorry, I was wrong, will you please forgive me?" It was difficult for me to say "I was wrong" when I didn't feel like I was. But if you really think about it—when do we ever believe we are wrong? Not very often! So coming to that takes a lot of effort.

But that is introductory. To release forgiveness is walking in another level because it requires you let go of judgment, offense, and control when YOU HAVE BEEN WRONGED. There is a legitimate reason to take revenge, hold a grudge, and take action upon another person. But God calls us to forgive because to walk in unforgiveness is to be entrapped. To walk in forgiveness is to walk in the power of the Gospel.

THAT IS NOT EASY.

Pastor Daniel then shared this quote,

*"The first to apologize is the bravest,
the first to forgive is the strongest,
and the first to forgive is the happiest."*

It takes a great inner strength to forgive—it goes against how we may feel, it may not change the other person, and it may be a continual choice. To forgive is often not a one time event but a continuous rendering of our hearts to the Lord.

MGMC asks us to do the Hard Things

When Daniel first was assigned Ephesians 6 dealing with forgiveness—it was only supposed to be for one week. But when the staff prayed, Pastor Cal realized that forgiveness is two-tiered and was led to spend two weeks on it. Forgiveness messages are hard. But when we confront the hard things, we see the results and breakthrough in people's lives. Going through the difficult and painful things enable us to begin to walk in VICTORY against the enemy.

Ephesians 6:12 says,

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

Victory is hard. Winners pay a price because they do the hard things. When Jesus called us, He called us to death to the world and the flesh so that we would be resurrected. The ultimate victory is RESURRECTION. Resurrection of individual purpose, broken families, and disintegrated communities. Our enemies are not tangible people but the devil. When individuals walk away from the Lord—they lose and the enemy wins. When families are torn apart—the whole family loses and the enemy wins. When communities are disintegrated—the whole community loses and the enemy wins.

The hard part is letting go of doing what God alone is called to do—which is to be the Ultimate Judge and Demonstrator of Justice. We will walk in true victory when we allow God's light to overcome darkness, peace to overcome fear, joy to overcome despair, and love to overcome hate. True victory is knowing Him. We overcome by choosing to do the hard things like ask for forgiveness and choose to forgive. It is hard to just get out of the way and let God be God. Forgiveness is one of those hard things that opens it up for God to move.

To Know is Jesus is Hard

Paul said in Philippians 3:10 that his number one aim was, "that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death." To know Jesus is to know Him and the power of His resurrection. To know Him is hard because it requires suffering/hardship/ going through pain. This is the reality of our fallen world and existing in it as followers of God is understanding that we are not of it.

God's Kingdom ways do not correlate with the ways of the world and it requires death to the flesh/ways of the world. The Kingdom of God does not make sense in the world.

To know Christ is to know His resurrection power, suffering, and death. We do the hard things at MGMC because we want to KNOW HIM. When Pastor Cal is leading us—it is so that we will know Jesus greater. As we know Jesus more, we receive His resurrection power, share in His sufferings, and die to our flesh.

MAY WE ALL KNOW HIM MORE AND NOT BE AFRAID OF THE HARD THINGS!
AMEN