



AUGUST 2008  
fbcmoesto.com

## From Pastor Wade



Israel hasn't been a mission field since the time of the book of Acts. For centuries between Acts and 1948 it didn't even exist!

A few years ago we began partnering with a unique church in Israel called Mount Carmel Assembly. This congregation started as a Christ-centered drug rehabilitation ministry 17 years ago. At that time there were very few Christian congregations anywhere in Israel. And the idea of a Jew who believed in Jesus as Messiah (a Messianic Jew) was also rare.

Today Mount Carmel Assembly is a growing church and has planted a few other congregations, both Jewish and Arab.

When I visited in June, I was amazed and thrilled to see how Messianic Jews and Christian Arabs had laid aside centuries of animosity and hatred to become "one new man" in Christ. We read in Ephesians 2:15b-16, "His

purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility."

I heard Jews state that they had been raised to believe that the only good Arab was a dead Arab. I heard Arabs say the same - that the only good Jew was a dead Jew. But once they both accepted Jesus as their Messiah, their hatred was turned to love, and these brothers who shared Abraham as their father were reconciled.

Mount Carmel Assembly continues their work of evangelism amongst all the peoples of Israel, along with drug rehabilitation, a home for women and children (some are refugees from Africa), intensive prayer ministries, and reconciliation between Jews and Arabs.

The next time you hear of news in Israel or the Middle East, remember that there are approximately 10,000 believers in Israel (Jews and Arabs), plus more in the Palestinian territories and throughout the Middle East. Persecution for following Jesus is a

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Actions speak louder than words, and when there's a language barrier to overcome, this is especially true. By building new houses for needy Mexican families, our message was loud and clear: *we love you and so does the God we serve.*

This summer, 23 high school students and staff spent three back-breaking days in the hot Mexican sun building homes through Amor Ministries in Tijuana, Mexico. One of the houses was built for the Macias-Espinoza family. The mother, Petra, is a widow caring for a mother-in-law and two grandchildren, trying to make ends meet by selling candy and water for \$40 a week. The other house went to the Rodriguez-Barbosa family. The mother, Rosalva, is also a widow living with her daughter and her friend. As laborers, these three women can make \$180



*Mission accomplished*



**Modesto Team One**

a week but were still living in dangerous housing conditions.

The fact that high schoolers can build a structure fit to live in is only one of many testaments to God's grace. We were constantly reminded of God's hand of protection as we navigated the roadways of Tijuana, put potentially dangerous tools in the hands of 14- to 17-year-olds and enjoyed some time of rest in the marketplace in Rosarito. Our team worked more efficiently and finished earlier than most groups who serve with Amor Ministries. After finishing our two houses, the Amor leaders asked us to come back the next day to finish a house that another group had been unable to complete. Our



*Friendship crosses cultures*

team willingly accepted the challenge and finished the additional project in a matter of hours.

Nothing could be sweeter than coming home knowing that more than just houses were built on our trip. Bonds were formed, leaders were molded and God was given the glory. For our team, that spells "success."



# Surfin' Safari

by Pastor Tom La Core

I am so proud of our Tweenagers. Forty-five of them helped pay their own way by raising a combined total of \$5,000, and five raised enough to pay their entire cost of camp

Was camp worth it? You bet! Besides fun, we focused on what it means to have Jesus as our Forever Friend. We learned that to really



*Serious about archery*

get to know Him means including Him in our daily lives day to day, moment by moment ... not just on Sundays.

Living a truthful life, not a double life - this is what we wanted the kids to bring back down the hill.

As camp speaker Mike Corsaut told his life story, many of the kids related his experiences to their own. This was especially evident during our campfire times each evening when the campers had an opportunity to share with the entire group what God was revealing to them. Many understood their own situations and shared the changes God wants them to make. Each day our campers competed in Bible quizzing, hiding God's Word in their hearts.

Our 24 cabin counselors spent most of the time with their cabin kids and had a great influence on

them.

Before our final campfire, our counselors

talked to students about what Jesus went through on the cross and why He had to die for us. Opportunity was given for them to choose to follow Christ or rededicate their lives, and to understand the meaning and purpose of communion. Mike Corsaut led the communion service, explaining the importance of being right with each other before taking communion. Most got up and went to another to make things right. For many, this was the highlight of the week.

Nineteen campers prayed to receive Christ, and 11 more rededicated their lives to Him. God was and is at work. One entire cabin of boys received Christ. I also heard from many of our counselors how meaningful camp was to the kids who had already chosen Jesus as their Forever Friend and are continuing to grow in their faith.

Many parents have expressed thanks for what camp meant to their children.



*Experiencing the zip line*



*Movin' fast*

# Building On Purpose Update: We're Moving Ahead!

Efforts toward construction of our new multi-purpose building continue to move forward.

You may have noticed that the remodeling of the first floor of the Christian Education Building is in full swing. When that's done, sometime in late September or early October, we will move the offices currently housed in the Needham Street building to the remodeled CE Building. This will allow us to clear the Needham Street site for the new multi-purpose building.

Beginning in August, you'll see noticeable progress throughout the campus as we begin moving all the public utilities in order to prepare the site for the new building.

Also in early August, we'll submit the multi-purpose plans to the City of

Modesto. We anticipate the review process will take a couple months. Then, Lord willing, we'll break ground later this fall!

Please be in prayer for the design team responsible for the details critical to finalizing the plans, for the City of Modesto as they review our plans and for our contractor, Huff Construction, as they begin to direct the work. These are exciting times after much planning and prayer. We anticipate the Lord's awesome work through these projects!

Visit our Building on Purpose blog at <http://buildingonpurpose.typepad.com> for the latest news.

## From Pastor Wade continued from cover

daily reality. So pray for them and ask the Lord to strengthen them as they carry the same message from the book of Acts into the same places that were transformed 2,000 years ago.

The Message about Jesus still transforms lives!

Wade

P.S. At the weekend services August 16-17 and 23-24, I will share more about my recent experiences in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

During my break in June, I traveled to Israel to study and to see key ancient sights. My last trip was 20 years ago. I was able to revisit key locations from that time and to see new ones. Walking in the very places where much of Biblical history was recorded is an amazing experience!

# Joy In The Waters

At our recent Sunday morning baptism service, we were again reminded that God is calling people from every tribe, nation and tongue to be His children. Our Chinese church, shepherded by Pastor Yau, celebrated a joyous baptism as hundreds witnessed five new believers proclaiming their faith. Three young

men from China who are only recently in our country have become believers

in Christ. The Chinese congregation cheered as the baptism candidates vigorously answered, "Yes!" in their native tongue as they were asked if they had received Christ and would live for Him.

Here's the story of one family: From Southern China, Su-Ai is a middle-aged woman who speaks Cantonese and, along with her husband, works in a Chinese restaurant. Married, they have one child, a high-school-aged son. They moved to the Modesto area six years ago, having been helped by relatives to get status as legal residents.

Last year, Su-Ai was invited to a Thanksgiving evangelistic dinner meeting along with many other Chinese people. When the invitation to accept Jesus was given, her hand shot into the air. She prayed to receive Christ. Su-Ai and Pastor Yau were just getting to know each other as she began attending the Chinese Ministry worship on our campus. But because her restaurant job required her six days a week, with only Mondays off, she could not come to worship meetings anymore.

Pastor Yau visited at Su-Ai's home on Monday afternoons, with both Su-Ai and her son, Kevin. Su-Ai asked

for copies of song sheets from the worship services so she could sing the worship songs at home. Pastor Yau says, "She loves to sing so we sing at her house every time we visit. She has such a genuine interest in singing, so I have begun teaching her simple choruses in Chinese folk melodies because that makes it easier for her to learn songs."

Pastor Yau said, "Su-Ai is very special." He has been taking her through new believers' lessons he has developed. One day Su-Ai wanted to show Pastor Yau something special. She brought out a small red notebook and asked him to read what she had written. In very precise, neat characters, every page expressed her gratitude and thanksgiving to the Lord and her prayers were full of gratefulness to be a Christian, to have joy, peace and a meaningful life. Pastor Yau says, "I can sense she's a gem ... so precious with a simple faith in the Lord."

She wanted to be baptized but her work hours did not permit her to attend church. Two weeks later she was actually happy to report that she could be baptized in a regular church service because she had lost her job. This was to be a very special treat for her since her son was also being baptized that morning and they could do it together. Not many people would so heartily celebrate having lost a job!

Pastor Yau went over everything that would take place during the baptism, explaining about the need to hold onto his arm, bend her knees and trust him to lower her into the water. When the time came, Pastor Yau asked her in Cantonese if she

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# Junior High Students Escape

*The Great Escape* junior high summer camp was exactly what the name entailed ... a great escape to a Giants game, Water World, Great America and the beach.

Beyond the fun we also saw the Lord do a work in students' lives. Our camp speaker, Tyler Cole, spoke throughout the week about giving our entire lives to the Lord. He pointed out that so often, we as believers have a hard time committing our lives 100% over to the Lord, yet this is something He calls us to do!

On Thursday night, as we sat on the beach fully



*Junior High Camp • AT&T Park*

surrounded by God's beautiful creation, students were given an opportunity to give the Lord their entire lives. We saw several students give control to the Lord. Life changes happened.

Yes, we have come back slightly sunburned and pretty tired, but we have also come back changed ... ready to see what the Lord has in store for us next!

## Joy In The Waters continued

had received Jesus as her Lord and Savior and if she intended to live for Him for the rest of her life. She responded each time with a broad smile and a resounding "Yes." But as he began to immerse her in the water, she was so overwhelmed with joy that she forgot to bend her knees. It was a uniquely different baptism!

Kevin was 11 when he came to America with Su-Ai and his father. He had become a Christian before his mother when they lived in Oakland for a short time. After they moved to Modesto, he continued to go to the Oakland Chinese church with his friends. But when he joined the band in high school, it wasn't long before band practices didn't leave time for church. His faith faded for about a year or year and a half. But Kevin came to the Thanksgiving outreach and raised his hand to accept Christ. Pastor Yau says, "He is an upfront, honest young man. He gave a solid 'yes' to accept Christ and a definite 'yes' to follow Christ."

Kevin will be part of the youth orchestra going to Beijing, China for the Olympics. Kevin is good at speaking, reading and writing Chinese and will be a big asset there, not only for his language skills, but also for his witness as a follower of Christ.



**AUGUST 2008**

## Home Groups

### Home Groups – a place to belong

- Connect with other adults
- Call or go to fbcmdesto.com

Home Group questions?  
extension 2609

## First B Saturday Night

### Chapel @ 6:00

- Kid Country programs available  
birth through fifth grade

## Share Your Faith Class

### Tuesdays

- 6:30-9 pm
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931

Share Your Faith questions?  
extension 2621

## Membership Class

### New Five-week Class

- Begins Sunday, Sept 7, 9 am
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931
- Taught by various pastors
- A basic introduction to First B and how to get connected, no need to pre-register for this class

Membership questions?  
extension 2609

## Single Adults

### Single Focus Sundays

- 10:45 am, The Point, downstairs
- *Sharing, Caring and WHAT?! – looking in the mirror*

### Luau Fun

- Saturday, Aug 23

### Fall Retreat at Camp Chinquapin

- Oct 17-19

Single Adult questions?  
extension 2618

## Believer's Baptism

### Sunday, August 24

- 9 & 10:45 am

*If you'd like to be baptized, please call the church office*

Baptism questions?  
extension 2609

## Worship Ministries

### Worship Choir Resumes

- Mark your calendar for Thursday, Aug 21
- Have a great time off

### Worship Orchestra

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- Worship Center
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare by reservation only

Worship questions?  
extension 2113

## Welcome New Members

*Victoria Morad*  
*George Wylam*

## Monday Night Church

### **MNC Service and Dinners**

- Mondays, Aug 11, 18, 25
- 6 pm, Pavilion Concourse

### **Opportunities to Serve**

- Help with childcare, prayer partners, sign language or food service
- Sign up this weekend on your communication card or call the office

Monday Night Church questions?  
extension 2621

## Kid Country

### **Totally Tweenage Family Swim Party**

- Saturday, Aug 2
- 2-4:50 pm
- Johansen High School pool
- \$1 - up to age 17  
\$2 - 18 years plus

### **Kid Country Leaders Meeting**

- Monday, Aug 18
- 6:45-8:30 pm
- CE Bldg, rm 315
- Taco Salad Bar

### **A Great Opportunity**

- Help change a child's life while helping in Kid Country
- Call for details or stop by the Kid Country Visitor Center on Sundays

Kid Country questions?  
extension 2120

## Sunday Night Teaching Time

### **The Book of Isaiah**

- Sunday, 5:30 pm
- Pavilion Garden

Sunday Night Teaching Time  
questions?  
extension 2622

## Park Cafe

### **Available Sundays: Summer Coolers**

- Iced black tea, iced passion tea and iced brewed coffee

### **A Great Opportunity To Volunteer**

- Be a part of a fast-paced hospitality ministry
- Sign up in the Park Café on Sunday

Park Café questions?  
extension 2618

## NewStart

### **12-Week Program For Parents and Teens**

- Provides real life information and hands-on experience
- Help parents and teens learn to communicate and interact
- Benefits of the program: self-esteem, respect and tolerance for each other
- Sundays, Aug 24-Nov 23
- 5:30-8 pm
- The Point, downstairs

NewStart questions?  
extension 2621

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

### Fusion Junior High

#### Sundays

- 9 am, Chapel

#### Summer Sports Spectacular

- Wednesdays
- 6:45-8:30 pm, Chapel

#### Fusion Small Groups

- Resume Wednesday, Aug 27
- 6:45-8:30 pm, Chapel

#### Check Out Fusion Online

- fusionjrhigh.com

### High School

#### The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 am
- Pavilion Concourse

#### 128/Fuel Groups - Wednesdays

- 6:45 pm
- Pavilion Concourse

#### Car Rally

- Wednesday, Aug 20
- Staff transports students throughout Modesto to gather clues and win prizes

#### Check Out 128 Online

- 128online.com

### College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

#### IGNITE

- Sundays
- 7 pm
- Pavilion Concourse

#### Check Us Out Online

- fbcignite.com

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Student Ministries questions?  
extension 2506/2508

## Recovery In Christ Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

Thursdays, 7 pm

Pavilion Garden

Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade

Various groups available for men and women. Our recovery ministry is designed to help people work through difficult issues that cannot be worked through alone.

Recovery In Christ questions?  
extension 2621

## Family Dynamics

Marriage • Family • Parenting

### Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Garden
- *Belonging to the Church Family* – are you ready for some challenges?
  - *Loving Those You Don't Trust in the Church Family*
  - *The Church: A Family of Limited Options*
  - *The Church Family: No Natural Parents*

- Note: 10:45 am classes resume this fall

Family Dynamics questions?  
extension 2618

## World Outreach Birthdays

For more information call the Church Office,  
521-0181, extension 2622

Elena Sofia Calderon.....	Sept 4
Evelyn Lorena Calderon .....	Sept 4
Zachary Eckheart .....	Sept 8
Jana Tan .....	Sept 15
Selma Lima Thomas.....	Sept 16
Kathy Kosky.....	Sept 28
Sarah Hunnicutt.....	Sept 29

## First Impressions

### Be A Part

- Welcome guests and help them find their way around the church campus
- One service, one Sunday per month
- Sign up at [fbcmoesto.com](http://fbcmoesto.com) or call the church office during the week for more information

First Impressions questions?  
extension 2806

## Men's Ministries

### BBQ Dinner and Speaker

- Friday, Aug 8
- 6 pm, Pavilion Concourse
- Speaker, Michael Pouliot
- Michael is the president and founder of BattleZONE Ministries in Clovis
- \$15 each; \$25 for you and son/guest

### Paint Ball

- Saturday, Aug 23
- Stop by the Men's Ministries tent on Sundays for more information

### Soft Top and Sports Car Run

- Saturday, Sept 20
- Stop by the Men's Ministries tent on Sundays for more information

### Men's Small Groups

- Monday: *Purpose Driven Life, Epistles*
- Tuesday: *12 Ordinary Men, Through the Bible, Spiritual Leadership*
- Wednesday: *Wild at Heart, Acts*
- Thursday: *Open Discussion, God is Closer Than You Think*
- Friday: *James, Sayings of Jesus, Master Plan of Evangelism, Ephesians, 2 Timothy*
- Saturday: *Man in the Mirror, Disciplines of a Godly Man*

Men's Ministries questions?  
extension 2617

## World Outreach

### Night of Prayer for the World

- Monday, Aug 4 (first Monday each month)
- 6 pm, Pavilion Garden

### Chinese Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am
- The Point, upstairs

### Laotian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am
- 1325 11th St

### Cambodian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am
- CE Bldg, rms 336 & 340

World Outreach questions?  
extension 2622

## Young Marrieds & Young Families

### Sundays

- 9 am
- The Point, downstairs
- Interactive teaching relevant for today - grow in your love for God, one another and those who don't know Him

### Newlywed Workshop Continues

- Sundays through Aug 10
- 9:10 am
- The Point, downstairs
- Includes: living life as one, sex, in-laws, money, friendships and more
- For couples married two years or less

### Coming Up ...

- Family Camp at Chinquapin  
Friday-Sunday, Aug 8-10

Young Marrieds & Young Families  
questions?  
extension 2618

## Women's Ministries

[fbcmodesto.com](http://fbcmodesto.com)

### Basic Safety And Firearms Class

- Saturday, Aug 9
- 8 am
- 3 hours class time, 1 hour range time
- Modesto Rifle Club
- Class size limited to 15
- \$20
- Call Women's Ministries to reserve your spot

### Small Groups

Call for times and locations

#### Sunday –

- Sisters not meeting in Aug

#### Monday – encouragement and prayer groups

- Perfect Gifts moms of children with special needs

#### Tuesday – childcare for morning groups

- New groups begin Sept 2
- 9:15 am
- Pavilion Garden

#### Wednesday –

- *GriefShare for Women*  
Now through Aug 27  
6:30-8:30 pm, 1325 11th St  
contact Pat for details,  
[pshuman@fbcmodesto.com](mailto:pshuman@fbcmodesto.com)

#### Thursday

- MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)  
Park Days, various meeting places during the summer, call for details

#### Encouragement & Prayer Groups

- Various groups, call for details
- *Ladies in Waiting* – deals with infertility  
call 521-4143 for details

Women's Ministries questions?  
extension 2623

### We've Had A Makeover

The church Web site has recently been updated. Now that it's freshened up a bit, it's even easier to use your favorite features:

- listen to the weekend messages
- find information about classes and events
- read back issues of *Around the Rock*
- connect with other in groups of all sizes

## Pacesetters

### Sundays

- 10:45 am, Pavilion Garden
- Fellowship and class

### Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, Aug 4
- 3:30-4:30 pm, 818 Needham St

### Sunday Lunch Bunch

- Aug 10, noon
- Pavilion Garden
- Single adult women 60+

### Giants vs. Padres at AT&T Park

- Saturday, Aug 23

### Modesto Rotary Senior

#### Adult Walk

- Friday, Sept 5

### Annual Concert & Dessert

- Friday, Sept 26
- Chapel
- Featuring: the *Herb Henry Family*,  
*Richland Men's Trio*
- \$12 per person

Pacesetters questions?  
extension 2617