

Mountviews

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Asked and Answered: Part 1

As you can imagine, Sundays are wonderfully exciting days in the life of a pastor. My first alarm (that is plugged into the electrical outlet) goes off at 6:12am, which then finds me reaching to shut off my backup battery-powered alarm that is sitting on my nightstand as well and is scheduled to go off 3 minutes later. Oversleeping is not an option for me so the necessary precautions are of course taken. I generally lay there staring into the darkness and running down the day that is before me including all the transitions needed to happen to get me where I need to be when I need to be there. From there I shower, get dressed, and head into my office for a couple hours of final preparations before arriving at Mountview at about 8:50am. I drop off my jacket and book bag (man purse) in my office, walk down the hallway and put on my microphone. Two minutes later, I head out onto the platform to start our 9am service.

My morning is occupied by two main objectives:

1. Teach the Word of God to a church consisting of different people, from different walks of life, who are in different places in their walk with the Lord in a way that I hope and pray that people can plainly understand who God is, what He desires from their lives, and providing them an opportunity to be reconciled to God through a personal relationship with His only Son, Jesus Christ.
2. Connect with as many people as possible who are new to Mountview to let them know that we, the church of Jesus Christ, are committed to meeting them where they are and helping them arrive at the place God wants them to be.

Everything I do on Sundays seeks to meet these two objectives and I believe when I am fully committed

to making this happen in my life, God is glorified, the church receives the blessing of being encouraged, exhorted, and equipped to be the men and women of God that He has designed us to be.

While the upside of this mission is infinitely greater than anything I could ever hope to put in words, the downside is that people ask me questions that I do not always get a chance to answer the way I would like as I am on my way to start the next worship service or I need to meet a guest of Mountview before they head out the door. So in my next two articles, I will seek to address some of the deep and important questions that you have asked me over the past few months. Enjoy.

Question #1: A few weeks back you mentioned Tiger Woods in one of your messages except instead of calling him Tiger Woods, you actually called him Tiger Williams. Did you mean to do that?

A few years back, while on vacation, my dad walked into the room while I was watching golf. Now my dad has a tendency to pronounce names incorrectly or just get them wrong all together. For example, when my dad was out visiting my family last Thanksgiving, he told my wife that he wanted to take us out to dinner at Hamburger Heaven (what he meant was Cheeseburger in Paradise). Later, I pulled my dad aside to let him know what the actual name of the restaurant was because knowing my dad, he was going to bring this up to my in-laws and I did not want him to look silly by saying this wrong again and having people try to figure out what he was talking about.

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Announcements

Worship services during holy week:

Maundy Thursday service (communion)

Thursday, April 1 7pm

Easter Sunday service (no communion)

Sunday, April 4 9am & 11am

Join us for our Meet Mountview Luncheon Sunday,

April 11 immediately following the 11am worship service. We welcome all of those who are new to the church to come and meet your new church family. We will meet downstairs in the fellowship hall for lunch and a time of connecting, learning about the church, and meeting the leadership. Contact Lynn Swonger (office@mountview.org) to RSVP.

Urban Connections is having a garage sale April 10, from 9am–3pm at the First Alliance Church, 3750 West Henderson Rd, Columbus, OH 43220. Please come out that day to help support this great ministry that serves the “least of these” right here in Columbus. If you cannot come, you can still help by donating items to the sale. Please contact Cathy Alexander (252.3726 or cathy@urban-connections.org) to arrange donation drop off (and in the case of some larger items they may be willing to arrange pick-up as long as the distance isn't too far) of your items.

Discipleship group connector Please join us on Sunday, April 25 immediately following the 11am worship service in the library for a short time to learn about Mountview's discipleship groups and help you get connected into a group. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Lynn Swonger (office@mountview.org) if you plan to attend. We look forward to meeting you and sharing with you what God has been doing in the life of our d-groups!

The discovery class is a six-week class led by Brad Reynolds on Sunday mornings, beginning May 2 from 9–10:30am, for all those who are interested in discovering and taking the next step in their faith journey. We will be covering such topics as giving your life to Christ, baptism, spiritual gifts, discipleship, church membership, what we believe, and why we do what we do. Connect with others from your church family who seek to honor God by growing in their walk with the Lord as we build relationships, learn about the church, and share our Christian experience with one another. If you are interested in attending this class, please contact Lynn Swonger (office@mountview.org) in the office this week.

Kroger community rewards All current participants must re-enroll by April 1 for this program in order to earn funds for Mountview Baptist Church. This allows you to continue earning rewards during the coming year. Please visit the website for the rewards program (krogercommunityrewards.com), click on “Ohio” to sign up for a Kroger.com account or click on “Already enrolled? Sign In” if you already have an account. You may sign up any time after April 1.

My dear Mountview family,

Thank you for the lovely arrangement of red carnations & even more important, thank you for your prayers at the trying time.

In Christian Love,
Dolly Garwood

Student Ministries

Thailand update

I wanted to share with you an update on how the Thailand mission trip is coming along. Just this week, Lance and Cheryl Scotney (long time members of Mountview Baptist Church) were in the process of flying back from Chang Mai. Lance and Cheryl could not attend the summer trip because of scheduling conflict. But that didn't stop them from going. Lance and Cheryl joined up for two weeks with a group from California to work in a village on a water project. In addition to the team from California, Lance and Cheryl worked with Becky and Mike Mann, who are the primary missionaries we will be working with in Thailand. Lance and Cheryl spent two weeks working on a water project and serving as "scouts" for our team when we go later in June. We were so excited to hear about how God is working in Thailand and how Lance and Cheryl were able to be a part of it. To see pictures from their trip go to www.mountview.org/thailand.

Being flexible

Originally when we set up our trip and committed to working with Mike and Becky Mann, the plan was to work in a village building a water collection and treatment center for a community of villagers who don't have running water. However, that changed initially when I called Becky and told her we had 32 committed team members who were ready to go. Mike and Becky initially thought the group would be too large and changed our project to working with helping build a school. This past week, that changed again. Mike and Becky have been getting such a huge request from villages desiring to have a water system that Mike and Becky felt it would be better to split our group into two teams to build two water projects. This change would mean we would need to raise an additional \$10,000 as each water project costs \$10,000 to build. We are committed to going and this June, Mountview will send one team to two villages, building two water systems.

What's next

It is hard to believe that we only have 3 team meetings left before we fly out to Chang Mai. We have purchased our plane tickets and currently are in the process of raising the rest of the finances needed to pay for both traveling expenses and expenses related to the cost of the water project. We need your prayers and support as we finishing preparing for our June 11 departure. I have included the roster of those who will be going this coming June below. Please continue to pray for our team and consider how you might be able to financially support this amazing opportunity.

Pastor Kurt,
Student ministries pastor

Thailand team

Maya Ayers	Cindy Miller
Bill Burks	Nathon Montgomery
Bryan Conrad	Brooke Montgomery
Justin Gardner	Kurt Oberlin
Rachel Garwood	Andrew Pirtle
Abby Halderman	Colby Richards
Christy Kranich	Connor Richards
Nancy Lange	Kurt Schrupf
Robert Lee	Amy Sherer
Henry Lee	Eric Sherer
Randy Lofland	Jenny Sherer
Lisa Lofland	Dave Skelton
Angela Lofland	Mindy Skelton
Steven Lofland	Mike Summers
Matt Miller	Jason Yankowski

D-groups Service Ministry

Hi! My name is Christy Kranich. I've been attending Mountview for about 3 years and also attended back during Pastor Kevin's youth pastor days. I currently attend the Snyder's Monday night d-group. My current role at the church is as the service coordinator for the d-group ministry—focusing Mountview on service to the least of these. You may wonder how I ended up in this role and what I'm doing:

I became interested in the life of the “least of these” early in my career. One day, as I worked with child welfare social workers to design a computer system to track reports of child abuse and neglect, our task was to list the types of abuse and other issues that could occur. Those social workers came up with a long list—a list with words I had never seen before. I started asking questions and was appalled to hear the types of things that happened to children and the struggles faced by many families, not in another country, but in the neighborhood down the street. I continued to learn about abuse, foster care, and adoption issues through volunteering as a child advocate in the court system and then during graduate school internships as I studied for a social work degree. I also began to learn about all the services and agencies here in Columbus that works to help people improve their situations.

Last year, I mentioned to Pastor Kevin how excited I was to visit a local food pantry. This led to a conversation about his vision for d-groups, and I signed up to help facilitate the service component. I began meeting with ministries and agencies in Columbus to identify partners for us. My goal is to help find a range of service opportunities so that each person and group can find something that speaks to their passions. Some people will want to serve children while others have a heart for the elderly, the sick, or the homeless. Our hope is that this information can educate d-groups about local opportunities and provide the necessary

information for folks to begin serving in communities that may be unfamiliar to us all.

Recently, I also signed up to go to Thailand. When I met Kit Ripley last year, I got excited about the prospect of visiting her in Thailand. Kit works at a home for girls at risk of, or rescued from, human trafficking. As I've thought about Thailand and listened to Pastor Kevin's recent sermons, I realize how very different my life is from the “least of these.” And, I also realized that I have a pretty narrow view of the “least of these.” I often just think of folks that may have a low-income. But the Bible also commands us to “seek justice and rescue the oppressed.” For me, Kit's work has begun to put a face on one group of people who truly are oppressed.

All of us have another opportunity to learn about human trafficking and slavery. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship USA is sponsoring the Price of Life campaign at OSU during the week of April 19. This is a unique citywide campaign addressing human trafficking and child sex slavery. On Monday, April 19, there will be a Town Hall Meeting—a time to dialogue with policy-makers and leading experts on what we can do to bring an end to slavery in our time. The event takes place at 7pm at the Ohio Union Performance Hall; 1739 N. High St. Featured speakers include legislators and members of the justice system. You will also hear from Christian agencies like International Justice Mission (www.ijm.org) that actively rescue the oppressed and Gracehaven that “provides shelter, security, and rehabilitation to girls under the age of 18 who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation in central Ohio.” (www.gracehavenhouse.org)

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Route 356 Traffic Report

April's Virtue: Friendship

What a friend we have in Jesus! This month in Route 356, we will be talking all about friendship, and what it means to be a true friend. What better example do we have of this than of Jesus Christ Himself, who laid down His own life for each one of us? All throughout April we'll be looking at how Jesus has taught us the following about friendship:

Week one: A true friend will love you no matter what. Jesus explains His crucifixion and resurrection to a couple of mates on the trek to Emmaus. (Luke 24)

Week two: A true friend will help you believe. Jesus, ever the ally, makes a surprise appearance to help Thomas defeat his doubts. (John 20)

Week three: A true friend will make time for you. Jesus makes breakfast on the beach for His fishing companions. (John 21)

Week four: A true friend will always be your friend. Jesus returns to heaven but will always be our comrade. (Acts 1; Matthew 28)

Elementary camp

Attention third–fifth graders! Summer is on its way, and with summer comes an awesome week of fun, sun, and learning all about Jesus! It's called elementary camp, and it's a week you do not want to miss. If you love campfires, you should be there. If you love bugs, frogs, and creek walks, you should be there. If you love playing soccer, swimming in the pool, or learning new skills like archery, you should be there. If you love singing and worshipping God, you should be there. And most importantly, if you love Jesus and want to know more about Him, you should be there! Have your parents email me (children@mountview.org) if you want to go. Parents, we need you too as counselors!

You'll love watching how God works in not only your child's life, but yours as well! Camp is June 20–26 this year at Camp Koinonia in Geneva, Ohio.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars because summer is around the corner, and that means Vacation Bible School! Our theme this year for VBS is High Seas Expedition. We'll get to take part in the adventures of Chadder the Chipmunk as he stows away on a ship setting sail for the open seas! VBS will be the week of August 2–6. More details to come! If you would like to volunteer for Vacation Bible School, please email Sarah Platine (children@mountview.org).

In His Love,
Sarah Platine

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Several folks at Mountview are involved in helping to plan these events, so for more information contact Abby Halderman (abigail.halderman@gmail.com) or check out the website: www.osupriceoflife.org. Parking is available at the Gateway Garage (75 E 11th St) and the Ohio Union Garage.

I encourage people to attend and become educated about an area of oppression where the church can make a difference. Let us begin to restore our conviction that God is prepared to use each of us to “*seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.*” (Isaiah 1:17)

Christy Kranich, D-groups lead service coordinator
(christykranich@yahoo.com)

Mountview Christian Preschool and Kindergarten

Busy days are ahead for the preschool now that spring has arrived. Some of our activities for this month:

- The teaching staff will be attending the 2010 Ohio Early Care and Education Conference on Friday, April 30. This is the largest early child care conference held in Ohio.
- **School pictures** will be taken by Callentine Photography on the morning of April 28. Any child from the church family is also welcome to have pictures taken then. Contact the preschool office (451.8691 or preschool@mountview.org) to set up a time.
- We are conducting our popular **Buy One Get One Free Scholastic Book Fair from April 12-16**. The book fair is open to the church.
- A field trip to the OSU airport is scheduled on April 22. The kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classes will make this trip during school hours.
- All classes are enjoying our expanded playground as new fencing went in over spring break that greatly enlarges our play area.
- We welcome the addition to our staff of Amy Sherer. Amy, who attends Mountview, is now working as an afternoon preschool teacher.
- We continue to accept enrollment applications for our summer and fall programs so if you know anyone searching for a loving, Christian preschool, please send them our way!

But most of all we do not forget that our greatest focus at the preschool is to introduce into the hearts of the little ones under our care the love of Jesus through our teachings and example. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as we continue to grow.

Blessings,
Pam Larson

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Sure enough, a day later we were having dinner with my in-laws and he brings up Cheeseburger in Paradise yet again, only this time he refers to it as Hamburger Helper. Priceless!!!! We have been laughing about that for months. And because the names he comes up with are so amusing and it makes me laugh every time I think of him, when he comes up with a wrong but amusing name, that becomes the name by which I refer to whatever he was talking about. So it is no longer Cheeseburger in Paradise but either Hamburger Heaven or Hamburger Helper. Even as I write this to you, I am smiling and laughing. Back to Tiger.

Watching golf that day years ago, my dad walked in and referred to only the most popular golfer in the world and maybe the best ever to play the game of golf as not Tiger Woods, but Tiger Williams. And yep, you guessed it, he has been Tiger Williams to me ever since. I am laughing again.

So did I mean to call him Tiger Williams that day? The answer would have to be both yes and no. Yes, in the sense that I almost exclusively refer to him as Tiger Williams and no, in the sense that apparently I have been calling him that for so long, I had no idea that I referred to him by that name in front of the church. That being said, when many of you asked if I realized I had called Tiger by that name, it made me laugh and smile yet again.

Thanks dad for many wonderful vocabulary gifts and thank you God for such a wonderful dad who models a lifestyle of loving his family and serving and seeking You. More questions next month.

In His Love,
Pastor Kevin

Weekly ministries

Sunday	
9am	Traditional worship
9am	Middle school d-group
11am	Contemporary worship
6pm	Women's precept Bible study
6pm	Element
Monday	
1pm	BYKOTA Bible study
7pm	College d-group
Wednesday	
9am	Women's Bible study
6:15pm	Bell choir rehearsal
7pm	Men's Bible study
Thursday	
6:45pm	HS boys d-group
7pm	HS girls d-group
7:30pm	Chancel choir rehearsal
Friday	
6:30am	Men's Bible study
Saturday	
9am	Worship team rehearsal
10am	Prayers and squares (third Saturday)

April birthdays

Adam Gogolski	02
Emma Griffin	04
Jacob Lecky	06
Christianna Hurford	08
Lola Marcus	08
Sally Schrumpf	08
Anna Molina	09
Julie Molina	09
Megan Sherer	11
Betsy Koestler	12
Mason Holbert	13
Betty Sepsy	13
Rob Davlin	14
Chris Holbert	15
Elaine Hess	16
Jolie Lecky	16
Josh Lecky	16
Calvin Griffin	17
Sarah Platine	17
Jessica Lewis	18
Maya Ayers	21
Ryan Moore	22
Leeann Faust	23
Dorothy Pyles	25
Ashley Ankney	26
Micah Canestraro	26
Norma Yohey	26
Scott Houk	29

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Pastor Kurt Oberlin, youth and college minister	students@mountview.org
Pam Larson, preschool director	preschool@mountview.org
Dave Skelton, director of multimedia	media@mountview.org
Sarah Platine, director of childrens' ministries	children@mountview.org
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