

# Mountviews

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## Thailand Prospectus

In June of 2010, Mountview will be sending a team of some 30 students and adults to Thailand to partner with Christian missionaries, Mike and Becky Mann, serving the people of Thailand. Located in the middle of five villages (about a mile walk from each village) stands the future location of a school/medical clinic that will serve all five village communities by providing education for students, dormitories for teachers, and medical care for all the villagers. Our team will be working on building this facility and leading a daily Vacation Bible School for the students. There will also be opportunities for our medical personnel to serve in the clinic. We are also working in tandem with our own missionary, Kit Ripley, and it looks like a couple of our women will be able to serve with her at the New Life Center which provides schooling, housing, and Christian love and care for girls who have been abused or trafficked.

It will cost about \$2500 per person to make this mission endeavor happen which works out to be a total cost of about \$75,000. Along the way I have wondered, why not just cut a check for that amount and send it to them? Surely the money would do more good than a volunteer team of people with various skills from the states ever could, right? Let me remind you of what God has been reminding me.

**1. Money does not bring eternal transformation.** We could drop 50 million dollars from a helicopter right onto the roof of this school. They could buy the best materials to fix the school/clinic and their homes, wear

the nicest clothes, receive the best education money could buy, and if Jesus is nowhere to be found, what have we done? We have improved their standard of living temporarily in this world and done nothing as far as providing them *abundant life now and forever through Jesus Christ* (John 10:10). And let us not think that just dropping Bibles and tracts along with the money will do the trick. What do most people do with those two items and how effective are those gifts if a person can't read?

**2. Honoring our calling.** When we became Christians and told God we were all in, we became missionaries, evangelists, servants of the Most High God, proclaimers of the good news of Jesus Christ. We told Him that *we would go into all the world and make disciples of all nations* (Matthew 28:19) just as He asked. He knew it would be costly on multiple fronts in order for us to carry this out. He knew it would require money, time off from work, and time away from our families. He knew it would mean flying in the face of conventional thinking and earthly wisdom. He knew it would mean traveling to foreign places, ministering to people of another culture who do not speak the same language or have the same luxuries in life. He knew it would mean risking safety and health to do it. He asked us to do it anyway (as Jesus did for us). So we will be obedient and do as we have been instructed.

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# Announcements

**Discipleship group connector** Please join us on Sunday, February 7 immediately following the 11 am 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](mailto: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 February 7 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](mailto:office@mountview.org)) in the office this week.

**In case of bad weather** please tune in to CBS, Channel 10, or check out their website ([www.10tv.com](http://www.10tv.com)) for information about cancellation of Sunday morning worship services. Also, as a reminder, all church day and evening programming is cancelled on days when Upper Arlington Schools are closed.

## **JOY RISING!**

by Joyce Anderson-Reed

The week between Christmas and New Year's, the four American Baptist missionary families that serve on the Baja Peninsula of Mexico gathered for their annual retreat. This year we were hosted by ABCNJ.

Our accommodations were spacious rooms at the empty parsonage of Hightstown Baptist Church. Camp Lebanon graciously lent us beds, sheets, pillows, and towels. It was such an adventure to live together in one house for a week, share 1.5 bathrooms, and to reconnect at a heart level. We caught up on our ministries, strategized for the future, prayed for our denomination, and just had fun together!

One of the highlights of that week was watching our kids reconnect. The 8 kids at the retreat ranged from ages 10 to 21: Daniel Long, Aida, Richie & Joshua Barnes, Michelle & Melissa Schellinger-Gutierrez, and Ian & Aaron Reed. Our kids have grown up together. Every time they see each other it is an instant bonding. We received about 5 inches of snow the night before New Year's Eve. So the next morning they engaged in a snowball fight that then segued into the building of a serious snowman. Living in Baja, these kids rarely play in snow, so the novelty of building a snowman together caused much laughter and spontaneous snow battles!

Another highlight of our week was a trip into New York City. All that glitz and glamour! We were treated to the Broadway Musical "Ragtime," ate dinner at the famous Carnegie Deli, walked one side of Central Park, sauntered down to Rockefeller Plaza and saw the huge Christmas tree, then made our way to Times Square which some people claim is the center of the universe. (Although we all beg to differ!) We were guided by ABCNJ Executive Director Lee Spitzer who, having grown up in New York City, knows it like the back of his hand. He made our outing an unforgettable experience and we are overwhelmed by the hospitality he showered upon us that day.

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# Student Ministries

## Identity In Christ

At Element (Mountview student ministries' Sunday night youth program) we have started a new series on our identity in Christ. Having an identity in Christ means that I find my significance, my self-worth, my purpose, my identity in Christ alone. My identity is **NOT** determined by who I am dating or who I married. It isn't determined by how much I make, where I live, or how athletic I am. My self-worth comes from knowing that I was created in God's image and despite all of my failures and shortcomings, God desires to use me as an ambassador of Jesus Christ.

So often in my life I seek to find my identity in anything and everything except Christ. Although this works for a little while, it never lasts, because Christ is unchanging though everything and everyone else changes. When we find our identity and our self-worth based on the circumstances around us we are setting ourselves up for failure and a lot of pain. If my self-worth is based on how athletic I am, what happens when I graduate high school and I don't make the college team because the level of competition is so much harder. If my self-worth is based on how much money I make, what happens if I lose my job? If my self-worth is based on how good I look, what happens in a few years and a few pounds? But, if my identity and my self-worth are based on Christ's love for me, well that never changes. God will never stop loving me, and God will never stop giving me opportunities to be used by him. In John 15 verse 5, Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." If Jesus tells us we can do nothing apart from him, then why do we continue to seek meaning and significance in anything or anyone else?

If you keep a prayer journal or would like to know how to pray for our students, then pray that through this study on our identity in Christ our students will begin to understand the importance of finding their identity in Christ alone. For our students, this study will be a foundational building block for everything else we study and learn about.

If, at some point in your life, you have found your identity in something other than Christ and would be willing to share how God revealed himself to you in and through that time of your life please contact me at [students@mountview.org](mailto:students@mountview.org) or by calling the church office. We would love to setup a time with you to record a video testimony that can be used on Sunday nights throughout the series.

Pastor Kurt Oberlin, student ministries

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I try very hard not to put a price tag on changing lives whether it is remote villagers in Thailand or those we are sending from this body of Christ. As the good hymn, "We Are Called to Be God's People," states:

We are called to be God's servants,  
working in His world today;  
taking His own task upon us,  
all His sacred words obey.  
Let us rise, then, to His summons,  
dedicate to Him our all,  
that we may be faithful servants,  
quick to answer now His call.

In His Love,  
Pastor Kevin

# Route 356 Traffic Report

## Discipleship Dock

In February, we will be talking all about honor with our elementary students. Each week our kids will learn about how honor is letting someone know you see how valuable they really are. When I think of honor, an image of knights and dragon slaying comes to mind. I imagine kings and men of honor willing to stand up and defend their noble kingdoms no matter the cost. (Maybe that's because I've been reading the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.) When I think of someone in the Bible who would be considered honorable, my thoughts immediately go to King David and what he said in Psalm 8:1-5:

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise... When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

In fact, we can learn a lot about honor by looking at how God worked through David's life. Each week we'll look at the following:

Week one: Honor those who are overlooked. David honored God, and God honored David, even though he was the little brother, a mere boy, and overlooked at every turn.

Week two: Honor others more than yourself. A look at how Jonathan, who was the apparent heir to the throne, honored David more than himself.

Week three: Honor those who are over you. The conflict between Absalom, David's son, and his father shows that Absalom didn't really understand God's promise in the commandment to "honor your father and mother...that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (Ephesians 6:2-3)

Week four: Honor God out LOUD. An example of David's unselfconscious worship of God.

## Creation Station

Quick quiz: do you know what Ohio's state motto is? Did you know that it is scripture? Do you know where in the Bible to find it? Well, by the end of the month our preschoolers will! "With God all things are possible," is not only Ohio's state motto, but also our preschool memory verse for February. Preschoolers will be learning all about how awesome Jesus is this month and how nothing is too hard for Jesus. By the way, you can find that verse in Matthew 19:26. By the end of the month, our preschoolers will be confident that Jesus can do anything!

Each week, our preschoolers will learn about the following:

Week one: Jesus can do things we can't.  
(Catching fish)

Week two: Nothing is too hard for Jesus.  
(Feeding 5000)

Week three: Jesus can do the impossible.  
(Walking on water)

Week four: Jesus has power over everything.  
(Calming the storm)

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# Mountview Christian Preschool and Kindergarten

As usual, Mountview Christian Preschool is a very busy place! The kindergarten and pre-K classes made tie-dyed shirts to celebrate the one hundredth day of school, which was January 28. The younger class of 3 year-olds painted the snow many beautiful colors using spray bottles of paint as they took a walk around the outside of the church. The 2 ½ year-olds were busy studying means of transportation as they explored colors through paint during the last week of January. The OSU airport educational staff visited on January 26 and brought a flight simulator to leave here at the school for a few days so the children could use it to pretend they were piloting an airplane.

February is full of excitement and learning is planned as the children await visitations by musicians and community helpers. Volunteers always help make February an exciting month, just at a time when the weather typically leaves little to be happy about, by bringing special offerings of talent and interest into the preschool. Instrumental and vocal performers will be sharing their talents with the children the first week of February.

The second and third weeks of February will bring visits of people from the community, such as fire fighters, police officers, the military, and others who share with us a little about what they do in their professions. We depend upon our preschool and church families to share with us information about their careers and we are always blessed that they are faithful to help us fill our calendar with such visits.

The staff is busy as well preparing for our re-application to Step Up To Quality. We were awarded a One-Star Quality Rating last April and will be applying for our second star this spring.

Please visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/stepUPQuality.stm> to learn more about this voluntary quality-rating system for child-care providers in the state of Ohio.

February also brings open enrollment for our summer and fall 2010 preschool and kindergarten programs. Tours are being conducted several times a week as prospective parents check out Mountview Christian Preschool to see if we are a good fit for their families. Please pray that God brings just the families who need us and those we need to our school. Remember that we offer part-day and full-day preschool and kindergarten programs for children ages 2 ½ through six, and we also offer after-school care for children who attend morning kindergarten. Visit the forms tab on the preschool website ([www.mountviewschool.org](http://www.mountviewschool.org)) to learn more about these program options.

Mountview Christian Preschool prayer concerns and rejoices:

- Hope, a preschooler in the Little Lambs class, is suffering with respiratory issues and has had to withdraw from school. We also celebrate with her the birth of a new brother, Shane, who was born this fall.
- Keaton has a new baby sister, Bella, who was born on January 21. Mother and baby are doing well.
- Ming will be leaving us in February to go to China for several months. His grandmother is suffering from cancer and he and his mother are returning to help out as long as needed.
- We have two new enrollees who began the last week in January. Welcome Emma and Hannah!

Blessings,  
Pam Larson, director

## Announcements (continued)

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Okay, we did sit through numerous meetings too! And one of the memorable moments was hearing about the creative, energetic efforts that American Baptists in New Jersey are doing on behalf of missions. In response to the economic reality that missionaries must now raise 80% of their support each year (the remaining 20% is raised through the World Mission Offering), this region decided to adopt 5 missionary units that had connections with NJ. Through a campaign called the "Go Global 30 Club," this region raised over \$10,000 of NEW money for these 5 units. We were inspired by their commitment to missions. You also might be interested to know that none of the Baja Missionaries were adopted by this region. Did this make us jealous or envious of our other colleagues? NOT AT ALL! We rejoice that when one part of our family receives support, we all receive support. We are committed to growing God's Kingdom around the world! The Missionary Community strongly believes that there are win/win solutions to reach everyone's targeted goal. ABCNJ gave us hope that regions will continue to be strong partners in the future work of international mission efforts.

We believe that each missionary, each region, each local church, the staff at International Ministries, and our global partners are all involved in a choreographed dance. Why? Because at the heart of our ministries is the foundation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are bound together through the love and grace of God's Holy Spirit. God created us to dance in unity and harmony! This is not a time for us to squabble and to be territorial, especially about money. No, this is the time to build bridges, to be creative problem-solvers, to open doors of communication even when we'd prefer to slam them shut. God calls us to join together, to hold hands when the world would advocate separation and divorce. The world needs more people

dancing united in the streets of her cities. Remember the joy of Jesus filling your heart? Remember the joy of your baptism? Remember the joy of creative ingenuity? Remember the joy of accomplishment after weeks of hard, back-breaking work? Remember the joy of being brothers & sisters in Christ? We are a family . . . and families stick together. So put on the music and remember the dance moves!

Serving joyfully in La Paz, Mexico,  
David, Joyce, Ian & Aaron Reed

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### Children's Sunday

Sunday, February 21 will be Children's Sunday here at Mountview! We'll be bringing Route 356 worship upstairs to you at both the 9am and 11am worship services so that our entire church can celebrate the great work God is doing in the life of the children's ministry and so you can get a glimpse of the awesome stuff the kids are learning about God! As an added blessing, we have invited all of our preschool families to join us for worship and to showcase some of what they have been learning as well. This will be a great way for us to connect with families that bring their children here throughout the week.

Please note that the nursery will still be open for children ages 0-2 on Children's Sunday, and our preschoolers will go to their classrooms about halfway through the service and can be picked up in their regular classroom after worship.

I am incredibly excited to spend a morning of worship, Route 356-style, together celebrating what God is doing in the midst of our Mountview family!

In Him,  
Miss Sarah

## Weekly ministries

### Sunday

9am	Traditional worship
9am	Middle school d-group
11am	Contemporary worship
6pm	Women's precept Bible study
6pm	Element

### Monday

7pm	College d-group
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### 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
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### Saturday

9am	Worship team rehearsal
10am	Prayers and squares (third Saturday)

## February birthdays

Lelia Roberts	03
Jim Gogolski	06
Fred Alderman	07
Cory Strunk	08
Linda Cleverley	09
David Green	12
Louanne Conrad	16
Jamie Cleverley	17
Kyler Schick	19
Thomas Brown	21
Jimmy Molina	21
David Garwood	22
Dan Brown	24
Cassandra Larson	25
Matt Miller	26
Patti Roadcap	28

Rev. Kevin A. Snyder, Senior pastor	<a href="mailto:pastor@mountview.org">pastor@mountview.org</a>
Pastor Kurt Oberlin, youth and college minister	<a href="mailto:students@mountview.org">students@mountview.org</a>
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