

February 2010

Dear MHC Family,

About a year ago, I preached a message simply titled, "Crazy Love." The premise of this message was to help all of us remember how absolutely mind-blowing it is that the God of the universe - the creator of nitrogen, ladybugs, galaxies and poison oak - loves us enough to warrant Him taking the time to understand every little detail of our daily lives.

As we approach Valentines day and as we make plans to extend love to those around us, I wanted to remind all of us how crazy God's love is for us. Paul in his book to the church in Ephesus wrote these words in describing the love of God:

*"And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in Him.
May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love.
And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should,
how wide, how long, how high and how deep his love really is.
May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it.
Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God."*
Ephesians 3:17-19

Just as Paul prayed this for the church in Ephesus, I also pray this for our church family here in Mission Viejo.

God's love is wide enough to reach every single person on planet Earth. His love is long enough to endure and overcome our failures and short-comings. God's love for us is the greatest, the ultimate, the pinnacle of what love should be, the best of the best. And finally, His love for us cuts through the dirt and rock in order to meet us at our point of deepest need.

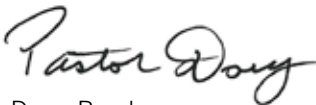
The craziest thing about God's love is this. There is nothing Satan can do, nothing we can do, nothing anyone can do that would ever cause God to stop loving us.

*"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from His love.
Death can't and life can't. The angels can't and the demons can't.
Our fears today, our worries about tomorrow and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away.
Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation
will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
Romans 8:38-39

It is this insight into the character of God that compels me to do everything humanly possible to love God back. So as you express your love this month to those around you, please don't forget to express your love to God, who is absolutely crazy in love with you!

As I close this month's letter, I want to express my heartfelt love and appreciation to Don Swaim and Desiree Ferdig. Don and Desiree have been valuable members of our leadership team and we will miss their outgoing, spontaneous personalities and dedication to serving our church family and furthering the ministry of MHC. Thankfully Don and Desiree will both remain a part of our church family and I want to encourage all of you to grab them the next time you see them and let them know how much you appreciate them and the ministry they accomplished as they faithfully served on our staff team.

Faithfully Serving Him,



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