

## “It’s Very Different”

By Pastor Bill Hayden

1/12/2024

It’s just another year and a different day...nothing has changed and life goes on as usual.”  
Say the scoffers in Noah’s day.

Soon there will be no signs of celebration of Christmas and entering a new year, which is okay! Nevertheless, this year feels different my spirit than years gone before. It’s not because I’m getting older...I don’t think that could be a factor. If I could describe it, “My feet feel a little lighter and I’m witnessing things in a different light that appear to be normal but are not.” Yet there is an urgency to stay very prayerful and really listen to the cry of people and intercede on their behalf.

I know that God seeks to lead His people from the familiar to walk with Him by faith. Throughout the Bible, God called individuals to live and walk with Him by faith, not knowing, but trusting.

Gloria and I came to the Villages eighteen years ago knowing only one couple in this little city tucked away in South San Jose. We met a lot of people who lived here for many years that have transitioned into the next life. The older men and women were like parents who shared their life stories with us as we sat and listened intently. They opened the door of their hearts to us and we learned to love them as if they were family.

We think about our lives and take inventory, and at times we feel free to share the failures as well as the successes. It is such a blessing to have transparent people in your life and to allow broken people to see God’s grace that you have acquired through faith in Jesus Christ. Each week, God has granted us the privilege to share our heart, life, faith, and love with people who are just as imperfect as ourselves.

Lord, we know that you are with us and will lead us to people who seek to be loved, accepted, and forgiven before your return.

Isaiah 55:6 ESV “Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

Celebrate with us at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium, every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life, enjoy a cup of coffee and cookies with friends. The Chapel is a place for *needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace*. You can view our worship services on YouTube at Villages Community Chapel, San Jose, California.