


# HEART-TO-HEART

*We are reminded that Christ is in our hearts and we are in His and that love connects us all in unity.*



*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

*Psalms 51:10*

## *New Beginnings*

March 1 is the first day of the Spring season. The days begin to get longer, plants start to grow, flowers start to bloom, animals awaken from hibernation.

Spring symbolizes new beginnings.

As Christians, we are reborn when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior. It is our new beginning.

When we receive God's love, we are then open to loving God and

to loving others. Our transformation into who God wants us to be is a lifelong experience. As humans we often fall short of God's expectations, but through God's mercy and grace, when we repent, we are forgiven.

Let us thank Jesus for giving us the opportunity to have a new (and eternal) life.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
that person is a new creation: The  
old has gone, the new is here!*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

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# *Angels Among Us*

by Linda Kunimitsu

“Will you take minutes at the revisioning meeting on January 7? I will be away.”

Whaaat? I’m a secretary by trade but I haven’t taken minutes since I resigned as department secretary from Leeward Community College in the 1970s. Besides, that was my most dreaded task.

I prayed a silent prayer, “Lord, I can’t say no to Jeanne. You have to help me with this.”

A special bonding had been taking place between me, Jeanne Nagatani, and her daughter Julie since we started a BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch) fellowship at our home. Though I had announced the hours as being 1-4 pm, these two ladies have stayed and fellowshiped until 7 pm! This is the kind of talk-story time I have missed. I grew up in a family of 15 sets of aunts and uncles, two sets of wonderful grandparents, loving parents, two siblings, and 48 first cousins. Yup!

At 9 am, January 7, I nervously opened my black and white notebook—the kind most of us carried around in elementary school. Yes, I still use them. I knew if I took notes in shorthand, I would probably not be able to read them; so I started scribbling what I heard. In the end

it was eight pages of notes that did not make much sense to me. “Oh, Lord, help!”

I subsequently spent a week helping my brother on the family farm in Kona. I took my notebook with me, intending to do the minutes before I returned. The notebook was never opened, and I spent a few sleepless nights stressing over this. How am I gong to get it done? My faith is in you, Lord.

A few days after I returned to Pearl City, I received a text from Jeanne. “Would you like help in putting the minutes together?” Yes, yes, yes; oh, yes! Thank you, Jesus!

Within a couple of days, Jeanne and Jeannette Nielson came to my home with bentos. After a wonderful Mamaya bento lunch, we got to work. Well, they did; I simply passed my notes to them. As I listened to their chatter, I witnessed a miracle. They were making sense of my notes and within an hour, the minutes were done. Not only that, they gave me praise for the notes. Heh?

To me, as I sighed in relief, they were truly God’s angels from heaven!

Thank you, Jeanne and Jeannette!

*Co-Editor's Note: Per Jeanne, the real angel is Linda - "she knew I needed help and didn't hesitate to say 'yes'."*



*"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*

ROMANS 12:10

# *Twice Adopted*

by Daniel Miyamoto

I remember my father telling me when I was very young, to “Never be ashamed that you are adopted”. I didn’t even know what “adopted” meant at first. Over time, my parents told me how I came to be their only child.

My father met my mother while serving in the Army in Japan. They moved to Hawaii after he was discharged. My mother could not have children, so my father investigated the possibility of adoption. One day my father received a call from an attorney friend who informed him that there was a child available at an orphanage that day. My father made arrangements to pick me up and called my mother to shop for some milk and diapers as he would be coming home with a child.

After reaching home, my mother discovered that I did not have the strength to cry. She took me to the doctor who diagnosed me with asthma. The doctor warned that I was not in good health and advised her to return me to the orphanage. Determined to nurse me to health, my mother insisted on keeping me and eventually I was healed of my asthma. Our family did not have a lot of money, but I have fond memories of growing up in Pearl City.

As I was about to graduate from Pearl City High, I was having struggles at home. We moved in with my grandparents who were living in a 2-bedroom home in Waipahu. The house was too small for 5 people and conflicts arose.....some of which had their roots decades ago earlier. I was not very happy and was looking for answers on how to deal with my problems. These conflicts made life at home very uncomfortable, and I began looking for answers on how to deal with my problems.

I then remembered a friend from Judo who was going through a rather negative transformation. He became angry and impatient; unlike the person I once knew. Then one day, he came to Judo, totally changed. His language, countenance and attitude reflected a light I had not seen before. He shared with me (and anyone else who would listen) about encountering Jesus and accepting Him as His Lord and Savior. I wanted what he had.

Before my freshman year at UH, I was standing in line to register for my classes and saw 2 guys coming toward me and talking to everyone in line. When they got to me, Ron Kam from the Navigator Ministry said, “We are from a campus ministry. Would you like to know about the claims of Christ?”

I was very interested. So, Ron made an appointment to meet with me



*“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God....”*

JOHN 1:12



## *Twice Adopted (cont.)*

on campus once a week to do a Bible Study. He showed me the “Bridge Illustration” and explained how sin separated all of us from God, but God sent His Son Jesus to live among us, to die for our sins and be raised from the dead so I could have a relationship with Him. I realized that, even though I was healed of my asthma as a child, there was a condition from which I still suffered. I didn’t even know I had it. It was called sin. And God wanted to deal with it so I could forever have a relationship with the Lord of the universe. One day in September of 1978, I bowed my head, confessed my sin and acknowledged what Jesus did for me His dying for my sins and giving me a new relationship with God. I then asked Him to become Lord of my life.

As promised in John 1:12, as I “believed and accepted Him”, I became a child of God. Once again, I had been adopted; this time into the family of God. My soul was cleansed and my sins forgiven as I confessed my sin and received forgiveness as promised in 1 John 1:9.

The struggles at home that led me to seek Jesus did not immediately disappear. Over time, I learned to trust His promise that “all things work together for good to those who love God” and are “called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). My mother eventually became a firm believer and attended our church, and I believe my father accepted Christ before passing away as well. I look forward to a joyous reunion in Heaven one day!

Ron Kam taught me how to be a disciple of Christ and my heart began to change as I read the Word of God, prayed, sought fellowship with fellow believers and shared my faith. Like Ron, I wanted to take what I learned and pass it on to others. God has given me the privilege to teach Sunday School, lead small groups and preach at West Oahu Christian Church.

God also blessed me with the ability to play guitar and piano as a worship team leader. It is such a blessing to see others praising and worship our Lord with the same songs that have touched my heart over the years.

I praise God for the blessings (and the challenges) of living for Jesus. As I have “delighted myself in the Lord”, He has given me many of the “desires of my heart” (Psalm 37:4). I thank God for a loving wife who loves Jesus, a good job, and the ability to compete in a sport I enjoy (bowling). I am especially thankful for my brothers and sisters in Christ (especially those at West Oahu Christian Church) who have been a part of my life journey as God has allowed me to share Christ and His Word in ministry. Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to be adopted a second time; this time into the family of God.



*Do you have a tidbit to share?  
Submit to your editors by the  
15th of the month. We will edit it  
and put it in print.*

*Linda Kunimitsu*

## *CHURCH SCHEDULE*

English Worship Service  
Sundays  
10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Japanese Worship Service  
Sundays  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

# *Fellowshipping With Others*

God wants us to come together to support and encourage each other. If you only attend church services on Sundays, it's difficult to develop meaningful relationships with fellow church members. But, there are opportunities available to help you to begin connecting with others.

One way to get to know others is in Small Groups. There is a study guide with a theme and a leader who facilitates discussion among the participants about what is studied. Through the discussions, participants learn about God, learn about themselves, and get to know others in the group.

Another way to get to know others is through Norio and Linda Kunimitsu's monthly Bring Your Own Lunch at her home. It's a time to share a meal and share stories with each other.

And last, participating in the upcoming Spring Banquet scheduled for April 22 is a third way to fellowship with others by sharing a meal together, having lively conversations, and enjoying uplifting music entertainment.

Fellowship...it's what God wants us to do.



*"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

MATTHEW 18:20



## *Calendar of Events*

- March 5 - Pastor Stan speaking
- March 12 - BYOL Lunch at the Kunimitsus' home
- March 12, 19, 26 - Gary Lau speaking (Lessons from Joseph)
  - (3/19-29: Pastor Stan on Vacation; Japan Christian History Tour with Evidence and Answers)
- April 2 - Pastor Stan speaking (Palm Sunday)
- April 9 - Pastor Stan speaking (Easter Sunday)
- April 22 - Spring Banquet at WOCC from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm
  - Deadline to sign up and pay is March 26

## *Prayer List*

**Transformation** - Pray for transformation that we may become more like Jesus.

**WOCC Strengthening** - Pray for God's direction on how we can all serve at WOCC.

**Our Missionaries** - Pray for our missionaries as they bring others to Christ despite their personal challenges.

**Heal Our Congregants** - Pray for those in our congregation who need God's healing power to restore their health and spirit.



## *Sunday Fellowship*

Norio & Linda Kunimitsu have generously opened their home for fellowship once a month on Sundays after church. The next fellowship session is scheduled for **March 12, 2023 from 1-4 p.m.** at their home. Beverages and paper goods will be provided.

Bring your own lunch or you can place an order with Linda for a bento from Mamaya.



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*"Now you are the  
body of Christ,  
and each one of  
you is a part of  
it."*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

*Please feel free to contact:  
Linda Kunimitsu or Julie  
Morita about this newsletter  
or to submit an article.*