

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.

*For God did not send his Son into
the world to condemn the world,
but to save the world through him.
John 3:17*



He Is Risen

In the month of April we observe Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week starting off with Jesus' journey to Jerusalem knowing that his end was near.

Good Friday marks the day that Jesus was crucified. He died for our sins on that day.

On Easter Sunday Jesus was resurrected, conquering sin and death, and he established a new covenant for all of us with God.

Through Jesus' sacrifice, we have forgiveness of our sins, we don't have to fear death, and we have direct and unlimited access to God. And when he left this world, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to always be with us.

Let us reflect on Jesus' love for us and be thankful for the gifts that he gave to us.

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A Stirring in My Heart

by Linda Kunimitsu

“Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!”

“Crucify him! Nail him to the cross!”

An announcement was made in church early in the year, around 1995, that an Easter play was in the making. The director needed a “crowd” of people to yell out these two lines. I looked at Nori, my husband, and said, “Shall we sign up?” Surprisingly, he said, “Okay.”

We showed up for the first night of auditions and rehearsals. The director approached me and said, “I want you to be Mary, mother of Jesus.”

Whaaat? I’m a very shy introvert. I just signed up to be in the crowd. I told her to please find someone else. She said, “There’s no one else. You can do it. No lines. You just kneel in front of the cross and cry.”

Oh, I guess I can do that.

When she called me up for the scene, the stage darkened and a soft glow showed from behind the cross. She said, “Okay, sob, cry your heart out. You are the mother of Jesus and he’s been crucified.”

I obeyed. Then she shouted, “Louder, I can’t hear you.” Um, I’m supposed to be in mourning.

How can I cry out loud when I’m mourning?

She then went to the end of the sanctuary. “People in the back row need to hear you!” The church never seemed so large as it did that night.

I sobbed louder. She continued to shout, “Louder!” “Louder, I can’t hear you!”

I wasn’t sobbing; I was starting to yell.

This went on for a few more times. My voice was getting hoarse. She finally said, “That’s it! You got it!”

Though this happened nearly 25 years ago, I remember it like it was yesterday. The excitement of opening night, the camaraderie of the cast—it did something to my soul. Since that wonderful experience, I have been in several plays, both secular and Christian, and have thoroughly enjoyed them all, every bit of it, from gathering for auditions to the applause of the audience as the cast gets called out at the end.

What I’d like to say here is, never underestimate the power of God. When he puts a stirring in your heart, step up, and expect the unexpected. Only then will you experience the Holy Spirit working through you. You might say to yourself, “This is not me; I can’t be doing this.” But you are!

Happy Easter!



“And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

ACT 13:52

Dis 'n Dat

As editors of this newsletter, Linda and Julie would like to thank our recent contributors:

- Joan Doi, for her article in the February issue of Heart-to-Heart. Her tribute to Charlie Nako was heartwarming. For those of us who are rather new at WOCC, we got to know Charlie better!
- Heartwarming also was Daniel Miyamoto's testimony in the March issue. His story of being twice adopted truly is a miracle story.

If you would like to submit your miracle story, please submit it to us. Any piece submitted by the 15th of the month will be considered for publication in the following month's issue. Let your godly experiences shine for Jesus! Put it on the lamp post!

In lieu of the monthly BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch) fellowship at the Kunimitsus', the Spring Banquet will be this month's fellowship luncheon. Come and enjoy!

A scam alert. As shared on Sunday, Feb. 26, Julie and Linda received texts on Valentine's Day supposedly from Pastor Stan, who had been in California for a pastors' conference, to purchase three \$100 gift cards to show love to three women in the hospital. Luckily, they realized that it could be a scam and no harm was done. We do want to stress that these kinds of things are cropping up more and more frequently. Please be on the alert!



"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



Calendar of Events

- 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
- April 23 - Pastor Stan speaking (40 Days of Ministry: The Great Commission Mat. 28:18-20)
- April 30 - Pastor Stan speaking (40 Days of Ministry: Do You Love Me? John 21)
- May 7 - Pastor Stan speaking (40 Days of Ministry: Confirming Faith; Acts 1:3, 1 Cor. 15:1-8)
- May 14 - Pastor Stan speaking (40 Days of Ministry: Wait for the Gift; Acts 1:4)
- May 21 - Pastor Stan speaking (Praying Together; Actus 1:12-14)
- May 28 - Pastor Stan Speaking (The "Birth" of the Church: Pentecost - Acts 2)

Prayer

Kathryn Shirey, on her website, "Prayer and Possibilities" (www.prayerandpossibilities.com), states that "God invites us into conversation and relationship through prayer. We're not born knowing how to pray - it takes practice and training to truly learn to pray and hear God's response to those prayers."

This website provides information about prayer and deepening our faith. One statement that stood out is, "we view prayer as an obligation (something we have to do) instead of a privilege (something we get to do)." We are allowed to develop a personal relationship with God and prayer is the way that we can talk with him.

Check out the website - it may help to make your prayer life more consistent.



Spring Banquet 2023

Thank you to those who have signed up to attend the Spring Banquet scheduled for Saturday, April 22, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It'll be a fun time of getting together, talking story, listening to great music and just enjoying each other's company.



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"What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?"

DEUTERONOMY 4:7

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