

# 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.*



*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

*John 8:36*

## Independence Day

On July 4th, 1776, the Continental Congress formally adopted the "Declaration of Independence", asserting their right to choose their own government. Thus, July 4th is known as "Independence Day".

In 1931 the Star Spangled Banner became America's national anthem. Did you know that the song has 4 verses? The first verse is the one that we hear at sporting events, school functions, and at 4th of July celebrations. After

reading all 4 verses, it seems that the last one should be the most touted:

*"O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and the war's  
desolation!*

*Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n  
rescued land*

*Praise the power that hath made and  
preserv'd us a nation!*

*Then conquer we must, when our cause it is  
just,*

*And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph  
shall wave*

*O'er the land of the free and the home of  
the brave."*

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

2 Corinthians 3:17

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# Memories of Napoopoo School

by Linda Kunimitsu

I was an only child for nine years and spoiled. Because my dad was the oldest son, in Japanese tradition, he took care of his parents and younger siblings. Being the firstborn of the oldest son in a home with doting grandparents, aunts and uncles still in high school, life was pretty good until... first grade. There was no kindergarten yet at that time.

I didn't like first grade but I had no control. My father would just drop me off and leave. It didn't help if I put up a tantrum. It didn't work. That made me more mad! The teacher just told me to sit outside until I was ready to come in and join the class.

There was a sweet little girl who would come out and sit with me. She'd tell me to stop crying and come in. After wiping my nose and tears, I did. Eventually, of course, I got used to it and even got to like school.

Napoopoo School was a small, country school about a mile's walk from my home. Each teacher had two grades so we had the same teacher for two years. My vivid recollections are in first grade. After the first bell, we'd rush to the classroom. The second bell was to stand at attention facing the American flag pole with our right hands on our hearts. We did this even if we didn't make it to the classroom and nobody was watching.

I remember the next thing we did was either say the pledge of allegiance or the Lord's prayer. I can't remember which came first. Then came singing a song. We were taught patriotic songs, in addition to Farmer In the Dell, Yankee Doodle Dandy and Auld Lang Syne. This was probably 1949 and America was still healing from the Second World War.

Oh, I might add that we were also led in the Lord's Prayer at every morning break and lunch, all the way up to the sixth grade. Isn't that amazing? So we said the Lord's Prayer three times a day. Though I was being raised in a Buddhist home, God's seed was planted in me in the first grade at Napoopoo School.

Even as a child, I loved to sing. To this day, I get a lump in my throat when I am moved to sing God Bless America, America the Beautiful or Battle Hymn of the Republic.

***Happy birthday, America! May God continue to bless you!***

*Have a wonderful local style Fourth of July with kalbi, bbq chicken, grilled mushrooms, bell peppers, kim chi and whatever else your family loves to eat! Also, don't forget to pray for our wonderful country. **God bless America now and forever!***



*"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."*

*—Ronald Reagan*

# "Treats" That God Gave To Me

by Jeanne Nagatani

"God, how could you allow this to happen to me?" That is what I would have asked Him if it happened way back when. Now, I know better. This is my story about the "treats" (blessings) that God gave me.

On my way home recently after visiting my friends at the bowling alley, I tripped and fell, injuring the left side of my face and my right knee. My face was so bruised and swollen, I couldn't open my eye. (Now I know how boxers feel when, after a boxing match, their eye is unable to open. Not funny.) My daughter Julie took me to the ER. X-rays and CAT scans were done on my knee, head and face. I was given a leg brace and walker and was instructed by the ER physician to go to see an orthopedic surgeon. He recommended Dr. Chang. I was unable to drive, so Julie invited me to stay with her. When I used to see people with injured faces, I used to think, "how can that happen?" Now I know. My hand was too slow to block my fall.

I called to make an appointment with Dr. Chang and found out he was in his Pali Momi office only on Wednesdays. He was booked until the following week. I had an upcoming Vegas trip so asked if I could see him sooner. The receptionist said, "yes, in Kapolei at 10 a.m. on Thursday." I told the receptionist, "I'll take it."

On Thursday using my walker, I slowly made my way from the parking lot to Dr. Chang's office. While I was checking in, a greeter asked Julie if she would like to use a wheelchair that was available. Julie said yes; it would be way, way easier than me using my walker. While we were in the waiting room, we encountered a young man using crutches. I told Julie, "See if I had gotten crutches, I would have been faster." She said, "Yes, but look how young and how much stronger he is." Reluctantly, I had to agree. Alas, youth and strength is waning.

Dr. Chang said that I had a vertical fracture of my kneecap which was better than a horizontal fracture. It would heal easier and faster without surgery. He wanted me to return to see him in two weeks. After he tested to see how I could "walk" for about ten feet, he "recommended" that I not go to Vegas. WHAT?!? No Vegas? I reluctantly decided to cancel the Vegas trip. Honestly, with my knee brace, how could I even close the restroom door on the airplane? My leg would be sticking out the door. Can you visualize it? Ha! It would look pretty funny.

Reflecting on my "trip" (pun intended; sorry, no omiyage for anyone, LOL), my blessings are that Dr. Chang had an opening on Thursday, I had no facial fractures, my fractured kneecap was vertical and not horizontal, and I had no damage to my eye (just five days earlier I had had cataract surgery). I also had Julie who was willing to be my chauffeur and caregiver and family and friends who were praying for me and kept in contact to see how I was doing. I could have gone to church a week after my accident, but my vanity prevented me from going. My eye was still black and blue and very swollen.

Pastor Stan called to see how I was doing and asked me to send him a photo of my eye. I told him to not be stupid or I was going to hit him with a "rubbah slippah". We had a good laugh.

God has again confirmed that He loves and cares for me. Things could have been far worse. Thank you, Lord, for being my along-sider.



*"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever."*

I CHRONICLES 16:34

## Big Sheep by Asami Lee



One of my passions had been Japanese Calligraphy (Shodo) & Sumi-e drawing. This 羊 is the Chinese character (Kanji) for "sheep" in "Reisho" style. The sheep is my favorite animal and I always wish to be a good sheep to God.

Another note is that the kanji for "mi" in Asami is "美" = Beauty. 大 on the bottom means big. Look what is on top!!

I am really a big sheep myself (^ ^)



*"Live every moment, laugh every day, love beyond words."*

*-Sameer Attar*

## Dis 'n Dat

**Interested** in coordinating an event at church? Contact Donna Kikuchi or Mae Rosen. They are WOCC's new "Event Coordinator Liasons". They can help you by providing guidance and support in planning for the event, in implementing the event, and in evaluating the event. They are your "along-siders", so that the event will be a success and achieve WOCC's vision.

**Did you know** that there are a lot of national days in the month of July?

Do a search on "events in July" and see what comes up. Here's a few:

- July 1 - National Joke Day
- July 4 - Independence Day
- July 7 - World Chocolate Day
- July 15 - National Be A Dork Day
- July 18 - Global Hug Your Kids Day

So pick your national day to celebrate. There's a day for all of us.



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