

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.

"But there's a story behind everything. How a picture got on a wall. How a scar got on your face. Sometimes the stories are simple, and sometimes they are hard and heartbreaking. But behind all your stories is always your mother's story, because hers is where yours begin."

— Mitch Albom



History of Mother's Day

(excerpt from <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day>)

“Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as 'Mothering Sunday.'

Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their “mother church”—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service.

Over time the Mothering Sunday

tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s.”

Note that they referred to their church as the “mother church.” It is because mothers are usually the ones who represent “home.” We are shaped by their love for us and remember what they taught us. Thank you, Mom, for all that you've done for us and shared with us.

Happy Mother's Day!

IN THIS ISSUE

Mistaken Identity

To Tickle Your Funny Bone

Spring Banquet 2024

National Day of Prayer 2024

Mistaken Identity

by Joan Doi

On our weekly trips to Sam's Club my husband Ken and I like to park farthest away from the entrance (more steps and our poor excuse for what we consider exercise). On one of these trips, we somehow got separated and as I looked towards the entrance I spotted "him." Yes! There he was...gray Bermuda shorts, white t-shirt and the all too familiar head of hair (or lack of). I walked quickly to catch up and upon doing so tossed my back-pack into his wagon and walked along side of him until I heard an unfamiliar voice say,

"Thank you!" Turning around, I realized it wasn't Ken but a total stranger. Sheepishly retrieving my back-pack from his wagon I offered an embarrassing apology. "So sorry, I thought you were my husband."

I did find Ken. He was behind me, not ahead. I wonder what that stranger told his family when he got home. I bet they had a good laugh at my expense. Oh well 😞... as implied in Proverbs 17:22, laughter is good for the soul 😊. Chalked it up as my good deed for the day.



"Humor is a prelude to faith and laughter is the beginning of prayer."

Reinhold Niebuhr

To tickle your funny bone... just because, laughter is good medicine

by Linda Kunimitsu

I go to Kona to help my brother on the family farm one week a month. I hated the work but now that we're living on Oahu, I actually miss it.

On my last trip, I screamed when I saw a green gecko in my fridge. OMG! How did that thing get in there? Fortunately, it was in the vegetable bin. It was now blackish-brown, and not moving. I knew for sure it wasn't dead, tho, cause it was clinging to the side of the bin.

I quickly texted my brother, who

lives in the main house. It's a long walk. For a free volunteer, he'd do anything, see, and he knows I hate geckos. He came down in about 15 minutes, calmly opened the fridge, picked the thing up with his fingers (yuck!), told me they don't bite, and flung it outside.

The next morning, a gecko about the same size was on the ceiling on my porch!! I was going to send the thing to heaven but it got away.

Can't win when God is on his side!

Spring Banquet 2024

Spring Banquet 2024 was held on April 27, 2024. It was a fun time for everyone to fellowship together. Here's some photos from the event - hope all of you can make it next year!



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"Our love to God is measured by our everyday fellowship with others and the love it displays."

ANDREW MURRAY

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2024

This year's National Prayer Day is on May 2, 2024. The picture on the right is the theme of the national prayer day. Below is the national prayer that all followers of Jesus are encouraged to pray on May 2:

2024 National Prayer

Jesus, we profess our faith in You. You are the Light of the world, and in You there is no darkness. For You are our lamp, O LORD, and our God who lights our darkness. Forgive us for fearing and focusing on the darkness around us instead of being filled with faith and shining like the city on a hill You have called us to be. Forgive us for the times when we have been the absence of light, allowing darkness to dwell in America. Lead us forward to dispel the darkness and bring light throughout the Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Government, and Arts, Entertainment, and Media.

We are saved by grace through faith, released from the darkness that once held us captive and now free to walk in the newness of life in You. Light dispels darkness and exposes what is hidden and wicked, so we commit to rise and shine! For by You, Lord, we can take courage to run against the enemy, and by our God we can fight the good fight and keep the faith as living lampstands in our communities and country. We fear no evil for You are with us.

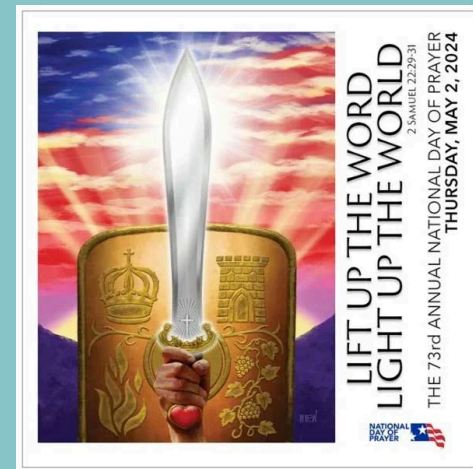
Lord, Your way is perfect, You lead us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Your Word is Truth, instructing and inspiring us to live in the abundant life You gave when You saved us from the death and destruction of the enemy. Fill us with Truth as we read, study, and live Your Word.

God, You are a shield for all those who take refuge in You. As we abide in You and Your Word abides in us, we take up our shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and run boldly into the darkness to Lift Up the Word and Light Up the World! In the Mighty name of Jesus we pray, amen!



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"For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him."

2 SAMUEL 22:29-31

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