

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 to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



Blessings & Gifts

December 2022 was the first month that the WOCC Heart-To-Heart newsletter began, spearheaded by Linda Kunimitsu. It's hard to believe that the newsletter has been in publication for 2 years! Linda wanted this newsletter to be uplifting, thought-provoking, heart-warming, and humorous. She blessed us with many wonderful stories that met those criteria.

In September a new co-editor, Alli Oshiro, came aboard. Alli has shared her personal stories that

highlighted the blessings that God provided.

As we head into the Christmas season, we are reminded of the blessings and gifts God gives us every day. We have many things to be thankful for, even in our trials and challenges. We have the gift of God's Spirit who is always present, the gift of always being able to talk with God directly, and the gift of Jesus' sacrifice that made it all possible.

Thank you Lord for all of the blessings in our lives and let us not take it for granted.

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A Resolution to Love One Another

by Jeanne Nagatani

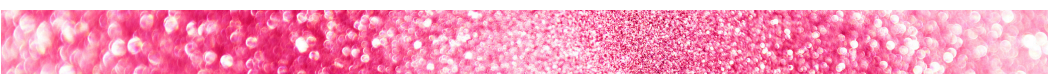
Charles F. Stanley wrote a devotional that spoke to me:

“1 Corinthians 13:4, 7 - Love...bears all thing, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Don't tell me that you love another person, but you are unwilling to talk to that person. Don't tell me that you love another person, but you just can't open up and be transparent about your feelings, ideas, or your past experiences. Don't tell me that you love another person but you are unwilling to work on getting to the core issue of a problem that exists between you...Genuine love never limits conversation, transparency, or personal self-examination. Genuine love is marked by generous giving and a willingness to change, grow, mature, and share the fullness of life with another person.”

I read this devotional and thought about what love really means. I think about some of the issues that arise at home, at church and between co-workers and friends and I am saddened that we are believers and yet we are unable to address the conflict that hinders our relationship with the other person. It's not easy to resolve differences, but the Bible says that we should, so we should at least try for resolutions.

Someone told me that resolutions are easy if you don't have to deal with people. But we are social creatures that need each other, even if we don't like to admit it. So we should all make an effort to repair relationships that have gone a little sideways, especially with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Love...The Hawaii Pidgin Bible Way

Sharing 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 from the Hawaii Pidgin Bible:

“Wen you get love an aloha, you can handle all kine pilikia an hang in dea long time. An you get one good heart fo help da odda peopo. You no get jealous cuz da odda guy get someting you like. Wen you get love an aloha, you no need talk big. You no mo big head. You no ack pilau kine. You no ack jalike erybody gotta do eryting yoa way. You no get huhu fas. Wen you get love an aloha, you foget all da bad kine stuff peopo wen do to you.”

Well said Hawaii Pidgin Bible, well said.



“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 13:34

Just Say “Yes”

by Julie Morita

As I reflect upon my attendance and participation at WOCC, I recall pondering about what it means to obey and serve God. It's daunting to think about what God may require of us when we say “send me Lord.” Usually, we shy away from it, like not making eye contact when someone asks for volunteers.

When I finally committed myself to attending church on Sundays, I thought to myself, “it can't be just about Sundays, right?”. As I made it a habit to complete the trifecta of what God wants us to do - be a part of a church family, read the Bible, and pray - I again thought, “is this all there is to it?”.

God and I have very colorful conversations. There are times that I wonder if it's just me talking with myself in my head, but I don't think that I'm that imaginative. In one particular conversation, God challenged me to just say “yes” to whatever came up in church that required a volunteer or participation as a way to serve Him.

Have you ever watched the movie, “Yes Man”? That's what it felt like. Carl Allen (played by Jim Carrey) attended a motivational seminar that encouraged the attendees to seize every opportunity to say “yes.” As a result Carl meets new people, learns new things, and has a reason to embrace life.

So just like Carl, for one year I said “yes” to everything in church. This had me volunteering to clean the church (which Derek and Mom also got roped into doing), participating in small groups, spearheading the Spring Banquet, co-editing a newsletter, participating in the WOCC revisioning meetings, and helping with the contracts for the use of WOCC facilities.

Just like Carl I learned new things, grew friendships with others, and (unlike Carl) have a new understanding of what it means to serve Christ. In the past when I attended church, it was just to meet God's requirement. People can be frustrating and disappointing, especially when our expectation of them is to be enlightened and transformed because we are all followers of Christ. This time around, it's different for me. I recognize that we are all the same - trying to follow Christ the best that we can and to love one another as He loves us.

God is always at work in us and through us, and all we can do is let Him. Just say “yes.”



“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

Isaiah 6:8

A Year In Review

What a year it's been! In 2024 we've experienced:

- the return of potlucks
- different folks participating with the worship teams on Sundays
- new volunteers helping with the cameras and screen projections
- the loss of a few key leaders
- church clean-ups that have a new leader
- the installation of a new assistant pastor
- many different guest speakers for Sunday Services
- a new co-editor for Heart-To-Heart (had to slip this one in)

When our church family loses people, we worry about who will do, what will happen, etc. Scripture reminds us that "if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer" (Matthew 21:22). We are thankful to those who faithfully prayed for God to provide for our church family so that we can continue to fellowship and worship Him.

We are blessed that God sends the right people to us at the right time to meet our needs.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6



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"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."

PHILIPPIANS 4:12

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