

# 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.*

*"The best way of training the young is to train yourself at the same time. Not to admonish them, but to be seen never doing that of which you would admonish them."*

*-Plato*



## *Fathers*

Happy Father's Day to all men who have children and to men who may not have children but mentor others. Children need positive guidance from fathers, and it seems that we need more men to fill that role.

There is a YouTube channel with millions of subscribers by Robert Kenney called "Dad, How Do I?". Rob, a father of two children who are adults now, grew up without a dad and wanted to teach basic life skills to others who may not have a

dad to ask those questions to. Many commenters reflect on the service that he's providing and the positive impact that it had on their lives.

Sigmund Freud stated, "I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection." Children need fathers who demonstrate how our heavenly Father makes us feel - safe, comforted and loved.

Thank you to all men who show their love of Christ through their words and actions to our young people. They are the role models that this world needs.

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# *The Sound of Silence*

by Joan Doi

The sound of silence? An oxymoron? It appears to be a contradiction, doesn't it? But, on second thought, a sound never heard is like a sound never made. The thought came to me as I listened to the lyrics of a song "The Sound of Silence" made popular by the duo Simon and Garfunkel five decades ago. With the passage of time the lyrics remain a prophetic message of the society we live in today. It resonates with the inability of people to communicate with each other on a deep "Heart to Heart" level thus hindering our ability to truly relate and love each other as well.

Technology has advanced at super speed over the past half century with so many quick and easy ways to communicate our thoughts and ideas. But, consequently, have these advancements diminished our ability to read a facial expression, a tone of voice, experience a genuine hug or enjoy a sit down "talk story" time?

The song ends with a prophetic warning:

"Fools" said I, "You do not know  
Silence like a cancer grows  
Hear my words that I might teach you  
Take my arms that I might reach you"  
But my words like silent raindrops fell  
And echoed in the wells of silence

Thankfully, God's Word offers hope and light that drains the "wells of silence" that keep us from enjoying the abundant life he promised. Through our relationship with Christ and fellow believers we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to do life together (Hebrews 10:24-25). Real life, whereby we do not forsake being together person to person to "spur one another towards love and good deeds."

On a personal level, I am so fortunate to belong to a family of believers at WOCC. Here I can be transparent and feel accepted "warts and all 🤗". What better place than this to exercise one's faith. We are far from perfect here; just redeemed and oft times struggling to live and work together as Jesus would have us do. Facing challenges together, learning to understand and accept our strengths and weaknesses, communicating our thoughts and feelings can only be done in community; face to face, and in-person. Consider coming to worship or joining a small group session at WOCC. Fill your "well" with the sounds of praise and worship and the genuine real-life relationships to be had here. You'll be glad you did 😊!



"Family is the one human institution we have no choice over. We get in simply by being born, and as a result we are involuntarily thrown together with a menagerie of strange and unlike people. Church calls for another step: to voluntarily choose to band together with a strange menagerie because of a common bond in Jesus Christ. I have found that such a community more resembles a family than any other human institution."

Philip Yancey

# Scammed

by Jeanne Nagatani

A devotional by Charles Stanley was especially relevant to me and starts with this verse from 1 Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be.... the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulations." The devotional to reflect on stated: "The best comforters are those who have been through trouble and tragedy themselves. They know the feelings, the sadness, and the emotional upheavals that go with the territory. So, when we go through adversity, isn't it reassuring to have someone there to walk with us who has endured the same trauma we are experiencing? Especially comforting is the friend who reminds us that our God is 'the Father of all comfort' who has promised never to leave us or to forsake us."

This was especially relevant for me because I got scammed. I felt so stupid and still feel stupid. The scammers played on my emotions and got me so scared to the point where I didn't trust anyone, not even my family.

Long story short, a representative from my bank's "fraud unit" called me to say that my account was being hacked. I followed his instructions - I went to the bank to withdraw cash, went to a Bitcoin machine that they directed me to, and put the money into the machine. He also helped me to create an account for Bitcoin and even gave me the password to use. I was informed that since our business was done for that day, I could go home and that he would call me the following morning at 9 am to continue to "help" me. Returning home, I sat in my chair, and I think that the Holy Spirit prompted me to call the bank and ask about their fraud unit. After hearing my situation, the bank's customer service representative told me that she thought that I was being scammed. I felt sick. With my permission, she put a hold on all of my bank accounts.

You may wonder, how did this happen? I'm still wondering that myself. These scammers are very good at what they do, and a lot of people, especially the elderly, are victimized. They form a relationship with their victim, create trust, and inspire a sense of fear and urgency. The bank manager told me a story about a woman who was scammed and lost all of the money in her account. I filed a police report and the officer who took my statement also shared that he's had to take many similar statements from the elderly just that month. I revisited the mini mart that housed the Bitcoin machine that I used, and the owner of the store told me stories of the many elderly who he tried to save from being scammed when he observed them putting a lot of cash into the machine.

There were small "tells" along this journey that niggled at me, but being emotionally bound to the scammer, I ignored all of them. I know that the scammer will not be caught, and my money is lost, but I filed a theft report with both the police and the FBI to create a record of the incident. I thank God that I lost only a portion of my money. Since then, I've had all of my bank accounts changed and had to do a bunch of other stuff to deal with the situation. All of it was quite an ordeal to work through.

I am sharing my story even though I may be judged as being gullible because I do not want anyone else to go through the emotional roller coaster that I was put through. I'm hoping that none of you ever get scammed.

My advice: Don't trust a stranger, especially if they tell you that you shouldn't tell anyone. Ask your family or your bank about the situation to get their advice as they are more trustworthy than a stranger on the phone. Don't get caught up in the fear and emotions - pause and pray on it first. Through prayer, God comforts me and brings me peace.



"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."

Matthew 10:16



# *The Train of Life*

*A Poem Written by French Author Jean d'Ormesson*

At birth, we boarded the train of life and met our parents,  
and we believed that they would always travel by our side.  
However, at some station, our parents would step down from the train,  
leaving us on life's journey alone.

As time goes by, some significant people will board the train:  
siblings, other children, friends, and even the love of our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum.  
Others will go so unnoticed that we won't realize that they vacated their seats!  
This train ride has been a mixture of joy, sorrow, fantasy,  
expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

A successful journey consists of having a good relationship with all passengers,  
requiring that we give the best of ourselves.  
The mystery that prevails is that we do not know at  
which station we ourselves will step down.  
Thus, we must try to travel along the track of life in the best possible way -  
loving, forgiving, giving, and sharing.

When the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty -  
we should leave behind beautiful memories for  
those who continue to travel on the train of life. Let's remember to thank our Creator  
for giving us life to participate in this journey.  
I close by thanking you for  
being one of the passengers on my train!



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Life is beautiful not because of the  
things we see or do. Life is beautiful  
because of the people we meet.

Simon Sinek

*Please feel free to contact:  
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submit an article.*