

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.

*“I will look after you and I will look after anybody you say needs to be looked after, any way you say. I am here. I brought my whole self to you. I am your mother.”
— Maya Angelou*



Celebration of Mothers

Reminder: Mother’s Day is on May 10th. Families celebrate Mother’s Day by bringing their mother flowers, giving them gifts, having a meal with them, spending time with them or a combination of these things. Although getting gifts is nice, there’s no better gift to give a mom than the gift of your time and presence.

Mother’s Day is a time for moms to reflect on the first time they became a mother and all of the emotions and experiences that came with the job.

This is a time for us as children to also reflect on the sacrifices that

our mothers made for us and all of the times that she put us ahead of her own needs.

A poem by Julie L. McCarty summarizes a mother’s love:

*Mothers are Forever
“Before the child is born,
Anxious prayers ascend to
heaven,
The young mother depends on
God,
To nurture the life she’s been
given.
When the mother hears the first
cry,
The tiny child claims her heart,
A bond that cannot be broken,
Deep passionate love from the
start...”*

IN THIS ISSUE

Inner Strength

Raising Children

Recipe from Grandma

Inner Strength

by Jeanne Nagatani

A devotional by Charles Stanley caught my attention and I thought that I'd share it with all of you:

Isaiah 40:31 "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles."

God's desire for us is that we seek Him first and foremost. Our definition for character and all matters pertaining to the human heart are to be derived from looking at Jesus and seeking to become like Him. God's desire is that we have inner strength based upon our faith and our relationship with Him. Then when storms strike, everything around us and even our own health and well-being may take a hit, but our spirits remain vibrant, hopeful, and strong.

As I'm getting older, I find that my physical body is affected with ailments. Selfishly, I ask God to help me with my physical ailments so that I don't have to suffer so much. I find that sometimes He answers and sometimes He doesn't. When talking to family and friends, we compare notes and I find that most of the time, we're having similar issues and I'm not alone in my dealing with my aches and pains.

But then God brings me to thinking about Paul having to deal with the thorn in his side. If he can, I can too. Only thing, I'm not as strong minded as Paul, so I monku (complain) a lot.

With the help of God, friends and family, I'll muddle through whatever is happening to me. I accept whatever His will is for my life. Just knowing that He's there is enough for me.

*"They that wait upon the LORD
Shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up
With wings like eagles.
They shall run and not grow weary;
They shall walk and not faint.
Teach me, Lord
Teach me Lord, to wait."*



*But I trust in You Lord; I say,
"You are my God."*

Psalm 31:14



Raising Children

by Julie Morita

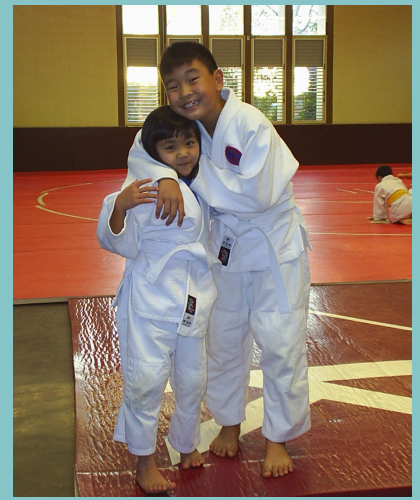
I remember when my son was born, my thought was, "...and thus it begins." The weight of raising this little person to become a productive member of society was daunting. He was a ball of energy, stubborn, and self-centered. But, I guess that it wasn't so bad after all as we did have child number two, my daughter.

I remember stroking my belly and talking to my daughter in the womb to convince her that she needs to be calm and not like her brother. We couldn't have two kids with the same personality - that would've been horrific! Luckily, my daughter was very different from her brother. She was quiet and calm. Different personality - she wasn't difficult, but there were also moments when she wasn't that easy to deal with too.

There are plenty of parenting books, plenty of parenting tips, and plenty of opinions to guide you, but in the end, you just never know whether you raised a good person or not. Also, each child is unique, so your parenting style needs to adjust based on their personality. Another thing to consider is what I call the "X Factor" - outside influences. So many things to think about. I recall that when I became a parent, my focus was to be intentional in parenting and my goal for my children was to raise them to be compassionate. I figured that if they were compassionate, then all other good attributes that you want them to have would fall into place. Seems to have worked out pretty well.

As they're both young adults now, I think that Derek and I did ok as parents. They're both self-sufficient, have good jobs, seem to be happy with their life, and have chosen good people as their significant other. Despite wanting to take full credit for how they turned out, I know that God played a big part in it. There was a lot of prayer involved throughout their lives. Plus, there is no way that they can be so well-adjusted with me as their mother. LOL

At this point in my life, I now have my mother to "raise." My daughter says that Grandma is in her "second childhood," so I guess she's my third child (don't tell her). I hope I do as great a job with her as I did with my kids. So far, so good. God's hand is truly in this one as this third child isn't too much trouble. The parenting saga continues. Also, next phase...grandchildren?



"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him."

Psalm 127:3

Recipe from Grandma

by Julie Morita

Sharing with you a mochi recipe from my Grandma, as a tribute to her. Those of you who know me are aware that I don't like to cook, but this recipe is pretty easy, and I've made it a few times over the years. Hope you enjoy it!

MICROWAVE MOCHI

- 1½ cups mochiko
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 2/3 cup water

1. Put the ingredients together in a bowl and hand mix (make sure all lumps are gone). Add food coloring, if desired.
2. Butter (or use PAM) a microwave bundt pan (or another microwave pan/dish about 8x8).
3. Microwave on high for about 8-9 minutes.
4. When done, sprinkle katakuriko (potato starch) on a cutting board and cut the mochi into 12-16 pieces. Sprinkle katakuriko for you to use to keep hands dry when shaping the mochi.
5. Fill mochi with a small spoonful of peanut butter (or whatever filling you want to use) and shape.



"Mochi: the chewable cloud of happiness."

Anonymous



94-420 Farrington Hwy.
Waipahu, HI 96797
Office: (808) 671-0699
Email: info@westoahuchristian.org
Website: <http://www.westoahuchristian.org>

Pastor - Stan Miyamoto
Assistant Pastor - Jason Oshiro
Editorial Staff - Alli Oshiro & Julie Morita

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