

MAYHEW TORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAYHEW COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

VOLUME 60 ISSUE 2 AUGUST 2020

PASTOR MIKE'S MUSTARD SEEDS...

For my article I want to share this devotion that I ran across. Sometimes someone shares an insight that just does an excellent job. This is one of them. The article was written by Fr. Ron Rolheiser who is a Roman Catholic priest. I was asking myself today "why God?" Not to question Him about a decision He made, but why is there a God? Why did I choose Him? This article has one of many great answers. Enjoy!

Today belief in God is often seen as a naiveté. For many, believing in God is like believing in Santa and the Easter Bunny – nice, something for the kids, a warm nostalgia or a bitter memory, but not something that's real, that stands up to hard scrutiny and indeed stands up to the dark doubts that sometime linger below the surface of our faith. Where's the evidence that God exists?

A true apologetics, I believe, needs at a point to be personal. So here are my own reasons why I continue to believe in God in the face of the agnosticism of our overly-adult world and despite the dark nights that sometimes beset me.

First, I believe in God because I sense, at the deepest level of my being, that there's an inalienable moral structure to things. Life, love, and meaning are morally-contoured. There's an inalienable "law of karma" that is experienced everywhere and in everything: good behavior is its own happiness, just as bad behavior is its own sorrow. Different religions word it differently but the concept is at the heart of all religion and is, in essence, the very definition of morality: *The measure you measure out will be the measure that's measured back to you.* That's Jesus' version of it, and can be translated this way: *The air you breathe out is the air you will re-inhale.* Simply put: If we cut down too many trees we will soon be breathing in carbon monoxide. If we breathe out love, we will meet love. If we breathe out hate and anger we will soon enough find ourselves surrounded by hatred and anger. Reality is so structured that goodness brings goodness and sin brings sin.

I believe in God because blind chaos could not have designed things this way, to be innately moral. Only an intelligent Goodness could have built reality this way.

My next reason for believing in God is the existence of soul, intelligence, love, altruism, and art. These could not have emerged simply from blind chaos, from billions and billions of cosmic bingo chips coming out of nothing, with no intelligent loving force behind them, endlessly churning through billions of years. Random chaos, empty of all intelligence and love from its origins, could not have eventually produced soul and all that's highest inside it: intelligence, love, altruism, spirituality, and art. Can our own hearts and all that's noble and precious within them really be just the result of billions of fluke chances colliding within a brute, mindless process?

I believe in God because if our hearts are real then so is God.

Next, I believe in God because the Gospel works – if we work it. What Jesus incarnated and taught ultimately resonates with what's most precious, most noble, and most meaningful inside of life and inside each of us. Moreover, this checks out in life.

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Whenever I have the faith and courage to actually live out the Gospel, to roll the dice on its truth, it always proves to be true, the loaves multiply and feed the thousands and David defeats Goliath. But it doesn't work unless I risk it. The Gospel works, if we work it.

The objection could be raised here, of course, that many sincere, faith-filled people risk their lives and truth on the Gospel and, from all appearances in this world, it doesn't work for them. They end up poor, as victims, on the losing side of things. But again, that's a judgment we make from the standards of this world, from the Gospel of Prosperity where whoever has the most worldly success wins. The Gospel of Jesus undercuts this. Anyone who lives it out as faithfully as he or she is able, will be blessed with something beyond worldly success, namely, the deeper joy of a life well-lived, a joy which Jesus assures us is deeper, less ephemeral, and more lasting than any other joy.

I believe in God because the Gospel works! As does prayer!

Finally, though certainly not least, I believe in God because of the community of faith that stretches back to the beginning of time, that stretches back to the life and resurrection of Jesus, and that baptized me into the faith. Throughout all of history virtually all human communities have been also communities of faith, of belief in God, of worship, and of sacred ritual and sacrament.

I believe in God because of the existence of families of faith and the existence of church and sacrament.

I wrote my doctoral thesis on the classical proofs for the existence of God, arguments for God's existence taken from some of the great intellectuals in history: Anselm, Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Leibnitz, Spinoza, and Alfred North Whitehead. I rambled through nearly 500 pages of articulating and evaluating these proofs and then ended with this conclusion.

We don't come to believe in God because of the compelling power of some mathematical equation or logical syllogism. God's existence becomes real to us when we live an honest, sincere life.



BIBLE VERSE FOR AUGUST

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; but rejoice, to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that, when His glory shall be revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 1 Peter 4:12-13.

WHAT WILL MATTER IN THE END

Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.

There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days.

All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten will pass to someone else.

Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

Your grudges, resentments, frustrations and jealousies will finally disappear.

So too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire.

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end.

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.

Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So what will matter?

How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought but what you built,

Not what you got but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice

That enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew,

But how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.

What will matter is not your memories but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.

It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.

Choose to live a life that matters.

Author: Michael Josephon

Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:37. If we follow these two commandments, everything else we do in our lives will fall into place and God's purpose for creating us will be fulfilled.

Amen

Fruit That Ripens Slowly

By Myko Mayer

It was a typical hot evening in August. We had crammed our dinners down and nervously piled into the car. We were off to AWANA. I had forgotten the address, thinking it would be easy to find the church. But, twenty minutes of driving up and down Mayhew led us back home. Now, we would be late. This is how we came to join the AWANA Club at Mayhew Baptist six years ago. My youngest daughter, then about five years old, joined Hannah as a Cubbie. She was quiet, full of personality, and always eager to do crafts. Her sister, a year and a half older, was welcomed as a Spark. She was a bit of a handful at game time but took to memorizing God's word from the start. Because they loved Club night, it wasn't long before I started volunteering as well. I sat in amazement as I listened to tiny little people recite verses every week; some did not even know how to read yet. In 2017, Stephan, my husband, also joined the ranks as an AWANA volunteer. He made his mark leading songs and helping out with dodge ball and tag.

Fast forward to 2020. The Covid-19 crisis hit in March, and, like you, we were saddened. The shelter-in-place order ripped many activities from all of our lives. So, I was surprised when my oldest daughter came to me a few weeks into our forced isolation, stating that she wanted to finish her goals; she wanted to "do AWANA" in our living room. It felt hokey, but we did it! Using the same May deadline, we challenged her to complete her last T-n-T (Truth in Training) book, signifying her graduation. Her sister also participated, earning two additional patches herself.

We could not be more grateful to Mayhew Baptist Church or to the many volunteers who have faithfully poured into our lives. The uniforms have changed. My youngest is now 10 and her sister is 12 1/2. They both profess Christ and have been baptized by our home church pastor. In fact, my youngest daughter asked Jesus to be her Lord and Savior in the car on the way home from AWANA two years ago. Our Commander, AKA Mrs. Nella, had given her testimony that night. You (meaning this ministry; every church member) not only helped plant those seeds but watered for many years. Often times a ministry that works in the background, has "poor" attendance, and is difficult to staff, is overlooked. Be encouraged! The Lord and His Word are active and living even when no one is looking.

On behalf of the Mayer family, thank you Mayhew!

Sincerely,

Stephan and Myko Mayer



Parental consent was given to display pictures.

RAPTURE?

By Anne Chapman

It was early on a Tuesday morning when I slipped out of my house to make a quick run to the bank when it opened. The bank was empty except for three employees that I could see and only one other customer. Upon leaving the bank, I noticed the parking lot was empty. Looking East down the long stretch of Micron, the entire area had no cars either. The usually bustling 24-hour Fitness lot was empty. There were no employees opening the other businesses either. Even the freeway which parallels Micron had only a handful of cars going in either direction.

Oh, my goodness! Had the Rapture occurred and I was left behind? Not yet. It was the Coronavirus and everyone was at Costco and Walmart!

I went back to my home-isolation knowing this may be my last visit to the inside of a real business for some time. I thought about how fortunate I was. So many people suddenly had been unemployed, or even faced losing businesses they had worked decades to build. Then there were all the kids who unexpectedly were home from their schools. People still had to risk going to work in hospitals and other health care facilities. So many others were having to stay home or told to limit socialization, while others had to continue going where they knew they were not safe. The homeless were in increased danger, and many people who were now confined to their homes had no one to bring them their medications or groceries.

Of course, this wasn't confined simply to our little spot in the city. It was a Global Event of Historic Proportions, and it had happened very quickly. I thought, if only people would rush to Jesus for eternal salvation, as fast as they were rushing to buy toilet paper, how many could escape the true and eternal disaster.

The day I am writing this is the 10th anniversary of my husband, Skip's, journey to heaven. I really hadn't planned on getting up at 4:00 a.m. in the morning; however, as I've told you before, the Holy Spirit had other ideas. That's the usual time that He wakes me up out of a deep sleep and I stumble into the other room and turn on my computer. I hope He laughs when I say, "You must be kidding!" He writes. I type. That's where many of my Torch articles come from.

The last few days have been very busy, following the postponement of church activities by a vote of the Cabinet. Pastor Mike was instantly committed to getting the word out and providing assistance to our parishioners in need. There was an urgent mailing to parishioners who normally come to service. Thank you, Diane, for all the help you gave to this project. Pastor called Lorene, who graciously agreed to be the contact for anyone who needed prescriptions or groceries picked up or other assistance while in home-isolation. Thanks to all of you who are helping. Meanwhile, Pastor Mike and Doug, with the assistance of Stephen at the school, had been working non-stop on several urgent matters at the church. That came to a sudden end.

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So, I guess I'll go back to sleep for a few hours now! As I said, I am very fortunate. My church family has offered to shop for me when needed. My neighbors on both sides are fantastic and also have offered to help. Diane is taking on lots of the church needs. Meanwhile, much of my church work can be done from home, and there are endless projects that may finally get accomplished at my house. Urgh! I might even clean and organize my garage!

It is unknown when this article will go into a Torch. It takes a crew, working closely together, to run the copies (takes two hours), fold it, put the labels and tabs on, and sort it all by zip code with special designations for the Post Office then deliver it there. At this time, all are in home-isolation.

Lots of prayers for lots of people, as well as our government leaders, are needed. Hopefully, we'll all be back together again soon.

Footnote: Later this morning JoAnne started a group text by sending a picture.



From there, the phone was buzzing with comments such as the following:

Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

"Though troubles assail, And dangers affright, Though friends should all fail, And foes all unite; Yet one thing secures us, Whatever betide, The promise assures us: The Lord Will Provide!" (John Newton, writer of Amazing Grace)

UPDATE: The reason it is possible to print and mail this Torch is because Hannah offered to fold and prepare all the copies at home. Diane offered to run the copies at the office, alone. Darnice called to offer help as well. Paulene, supervisor of the Torch mailing, also offered her services. Although it is on the website, not everyone has the equipment to access it and there is much care that everyone who looks forward to receiving it is able to.

Mayhew CBC Parishioners Go Home with Jesus

This year we have lost four of our parishioners. Due to the virus, it hasn't even been possible to hold a regular memorial service or pay visits to them during their last days. While their families surely understand, it is not a good feeling. This article in no way replaces being together to share our sadness as well as our thankfulness for their lives and to celebrate their graduation to Heaven.

SAM LISTER

Sam was a long-time and active parishioner of Mayhew CBC. He was here long before the main sanctuary was built. He was a respected member of the Board of Trustees for many years, and was serving in that capacity when he passed. He would always sit quietly, taking everything in, then offer his perspective which was full of history and wisdom. Sam would come into the sanctuary just before the message because he would always walk the parking lot for security. One of Sam's favorite songs was "I Need Thee Every Hour."

During WWII, Sam served in the Army in the Pacific. During his working years, he was a polygraph detective. He loved to bar-b-que and once was awarded Outstanding Championship Bar-B-Que'r in a rib cookoff. He collected rocks and made jewelry. A few years ago, his house burned down and he lost his beloved dog in the fire. It took a long time and a lot of hardship before it was rebuilt.

Sam will be remembered as being kind and pleasant to be around. He will be missed.

ROBIN ALEXANDER

Robin had been a parishioner of the church for about nine years. He was always active and served as Treasurer, a member of the Diaconate Board, Sunday School teacher, AWANA volunteer and a volunteer at Casa Coloma Sing-along where he sang and also provided the spiritual message. He participated in all of the church's events such as the Harvest Festival, Easter Block Party, Christmas Parade preparation and a host of other events. One year at the annual ABWM Valentine Appreciation Luncheon's talent show, he played the man who stole the sweetheart while dancing to the Tennessee Waltz.

Those of you who knew Robin can confirm he was a walking encyclopedia. He read everything he could get his hands on and never forgot any of it. When he was young, he served in the Navy. Recently, and at the time he passed, he was serving as President of the Old Timers' Radio Club and Quarter Century Wireless Association of Sacramento, of which he had been a long-time member. He held an advanced amateur radio license with the Federal Communications Commission and had a humongous telescopic towering antenna mounted in his yard. Between his career with Pacific Bell and his amateur radio experience, he excelled in building electrical components. One dream he did not get to realize was building his own airplane and flying it all over the world! This may sound farfetched; however, one of the members of the radio club had done just that.

Robin was a natural Evangelist. The Lord took hold of him in his late 20's. Over the years he brought more people to the foot of the cross than many ever do. He had a way of spreading the Good News and wasn't hesitant to explain the "bad news" everywhere he went. He could do so without making people feel uncomfortable, and used this gift on many of different occasions, including when speaking at memorial services.

Robin loved to travel and to go on cruises. He was so unselfish in all ways, forever giving to the church and giving of his time to others.

He was such an excellent husband and expended all of his human strength to take care of Doris through many years of surgeries and illnesses. The couple suffered the loss of their 12-year old son who was missing for five weeks prior to his body being

found. All the while he never ceased to praise the Lord in all things. (Like the song says, "You give and You take away. My heart will choose to say, Lord, Blessed Be Your Name.)

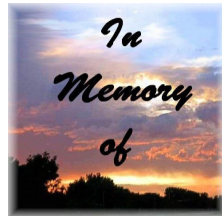
After Doris passed away, Robin simply could not be alone. He became a member of the Widowed Persons' Association where he met Bonnie. They married and had several wonderful years together, before Robin went to be with his Lord. He will be missed by all.

SUMIKO SUYENAGA

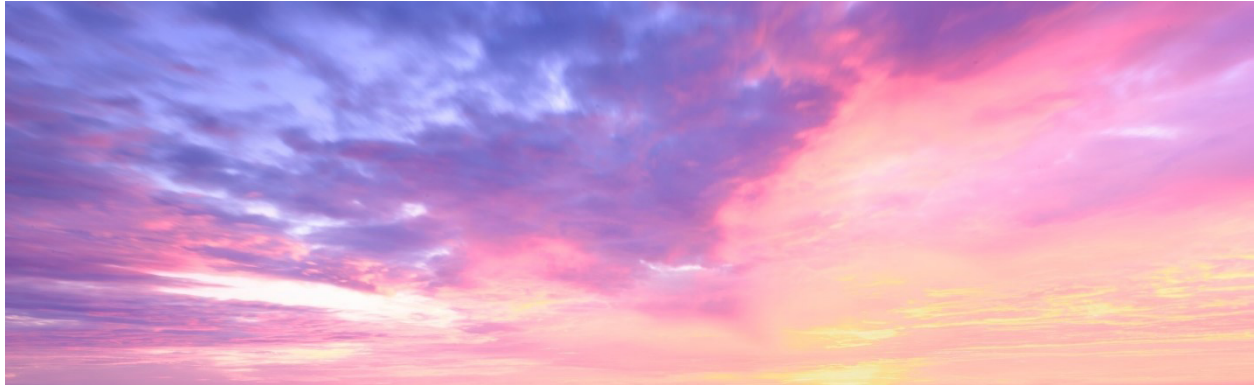
Sumiko was a retired school teacher at Sequoia Elementary School. She had many interests including gardening and music. She was an English second language computer teacher, a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator and President of the local Japanese American Citizens' League. She liked dogs and cats and was especially fond of Akita dogs. She donated to many charities including giving a scholarship to Los Rios Community College. Sumiko was a former parishioner of Mayhew CBC and we celebrate her graduation to Heaven.

LINDA BIDDEL

Linda and her daughter, Heather were parishioners some time ago. Linda had a beautiful voice and was in the choir. Last year her husband passed away. Linda has now joined him. Linda will be remembered as a sincere and sweet person.



Hisako Iwasa IMO Betty Satow
 Lillian Kawamura IMO Betty Satow
 Ted and Joylene IMO Bill and Betty Satow
 Jean Tamaki IMO Bill and Betty Satow
 Kay and Marian Sakakihara IMO Bill and Betty Satow
 Jodi King IMO Bill and Betty Satow
 Glenn and Valerie Nastsuhara IMO Betty Satow
 John and Erin Takechi IMO Betty Satow
 Sherry Sanbo IMO Betty Satow
 Stuart and Naomi Nagasawa IMO Betty Satow
 Bruce and Valerie Satow IMO Betty Satow
 George Sato IMO Betty Satow
 Chiyo Aiso IMO Betty Satow
 Miriam Sheppard IMO Betty Satow
 Family of Betty Satow IMO Betty Satow
 Dale Satow IMO Betty Satow
 Michael and Hannah Guro IMO Miyo Kobata
 Ritsuko Iwasa IMO Bill and Betty Satow
 Kay Yamogida IMO Sam Lister



. . . God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

For a number of years, Pastor Mike has been wanting to offer people the option of on-line giving. He has been exceedingly patient. Finally, it has happened and the church is now offering on-line options to those who may find it a convenient way to send tithes and offerings.

If you or someone you know would like to use it, go to our website at Mayhewcommunitybaptist.org then click on Methods of Giving. A page will appear. The first option has a link to click which will bring up an on-line giving form with Vanco Payment Solutions. There is also an option to use a Mobile App feature and another to use Text with a special phone number which is provided. There are still the options to use the Bill Pay feature of one's bank, as well as mailing a check directly to the church

Diane has worked diligently over the past month to get this up and running. Vanco is a solid company which primarily serves faith-based organizations. If you have questions on the above, please reach out to Diane at: Diane.sarbacher@gmail.com.

A Post by Ernesto Aragon

Most of us don't know that when Jesus was hanging on the cross, in order to get a breath of fresh air, he needed to push his body upwards putting all his weight on the nails driven into his hands and feet. While hanging there, He forgave the people who were racist against Him being Jewish.

How could Jesus die for and forgive people who are racist? How could He forgive two of His closest followers/friends, Judas and Peter, knowing in advance they would both betray Him?

I know I've had lots of people personally betray me, make fun of me, become bitter against me, become jealous of me, etc., throughout the years. The pain of remembering the good times and the laughter breaks my heart when those same people turn against me. To think of dying for such people would never cross my mind, but that's what Jesus did.

I haven't experienced much racism personally and my friends are quite multicultural. But I've certainly experienced the agony of betrayal like Jesus did. What kind of love is that to love people who don't even like us, or even worse, hate us? Martin Luther King couldn't have said it better, "Hate cannot drive out hate only love can do that." Love is the only way true change can happen.

AMAZON.SMILE PROGRAM
Another Way to Help Support the Church

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2621192>

For those of you who are Amazon or Amazon Prime users, the “SmileAmazon” program provides a method whereby the company will send 5% of an item’s purchase price to a charity of the customer’s choice. There is no cost to the customer, and using the “Smile” method, does not change a person’s existing account with Amazon. (To order from Amazon, a person has to have an account set up with them, regardless of whether using the Smile option or not.)

Mayhew CBC is a registered charity with SmileAmazon. They have provided us with a special link (above) which will take a user directly to the Smile feature and enable 5% of the purchase price to be sent to the church.

Of course, this does not replace the church’s need for regular tithes and offerings to support operational expenses, payroll, insurance, etc. It simply may provide a little extra over time. We understand most items qualify for the program. Some that do not are such things as gift cards, coins, jewelry, or single purchases exceeding \$2,000. Any returns or cancellations do not apply.

Please feel free to share this with family and friends. Diane Sarbacher is the designated Administrator on behalf of the church.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Recently, we have made numerous updates to our website. Since we are unable to get together, the website will be used to provide updated information as it occurs. As of this writing, there are no finalized dates as to when the church will reopen. As described previously, opening for outside services is being considered. Please check the website for updates.

Isaiah Felton (Sandee’s 15-year old son) has been doing an excellent job of loading many items onto the website and creating the necessary links. Now that the basic information is there, it is being fine-tuned.

Salem Radio is our web host. You likely know them via the Fish and other Christian radio channels. They partner with SoleSolutions for the technical aspects of our website. SoleSolutions is a *fantastic* organization to work with closely on this effort. In fact, they are so enthused about Isaiah’s natural talent, his willingness to work on this project, and Sandee’s approval, that once all the fine-tuning is done, they will be giving him 45 minutes of free technical training, specifically for our website! Much appreciation goes to Kathy and the people at Salem Radio who keep in touch with us, and to Jamie and the web team at SoleSolutions. This is the way God planned for things to be – a Great Team working together!

There are additional people to thank for this Website: Margaret for initially commissioning Salem Radio Network; Nella for working with them to set it up; Sandee, Isaiah’s Mom, for her encouragement and cheerleading, and Diane for all her work on special projects. Another person has now been added to the list. Tony, an IT friend of Isaiah, rebuilds computers and he is giving Isaiah a computer which will be compatible with Publisher. This is necessary for Isaiah’s work on the site.

Please visit the website if you can at Mayhewcommunitybaptist.org. It can be accessed via a computer or cell phone. It contains Pastor’s messages, Becca’s worship songs, the Newsletter, some of Pastor’s Mustard Seeds as well as Miracle Stories and Testimonies. Also, on it are links and information to on-line giving and the SmileAmazon program.

The Torch and other documents on this website are in PFD (portable document format).
They can be shared as well as printed in either black and white or in color.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS AND PLANS

Although the Bible tells us to not forsake the gathering together, we have been unable to do so physically since mid-March. While throughout history there have been both widespread and localized plagues and pestilence, for us it is uncharted territory. Even during times of severe persecution, people could secretly meet in basements, etc. It is unknown how long this will last, and there isn't a sign of a "new normal" yet.

One thing we know is that nothing and no one can separate us from the love of God or each other. We are still the same body of Christ that we have always been. We have communication options which were unheard of in other eras. None of this, however, diminishes the desire to be back together.

When the virus first hit and we were told to self-isolate, Pastor Mike immediately ordered an FM transmitter so we could hold services in our cars in the parking lot. Our come-as-you are motto would be changed to come-in-your-pajamas. Lodie was going for the blue and white flannel with snowflakes! It's unclear what she had decided for Floyd! We never found out because right away, the Governor issued an order that banned drive-in services. Everything has been changing almost daily as no one really knew what to or not to do and what was safe or unsafe.

Recently, both the Diaconate Board and the Board of Trustees met separately (lots of distancing) and determined it was not safe to resume holding service or other functions indoors. Pastor tested the FM transmitter which works well. The Cabinet will be finalizing when to open services outdoors via drive in and whether or not to have seating in the grass area with appropriate spacing. Appropriate health and safety procedures are being firmed up.

Pastor Mike's messages on Sunday will continue to be on the website. A decision whether to start live-streaming will also be made. To do this, the equipment will likely cost a minimum of \$3,000. If it is determined to proceed, this may be a case where we will need to request special donations to accomplish it.

As of now, the office is being used briefly by Ted to prepare his financial reports and bank deposits. Also, Diane uses it occasionally to bring mail for Ted, manage the marquee and phone messages, and access the computer when needed. Everything else is being done at home.

When a decision is made, calls will be made to those who regularly attend. We may also utilize emails and texts. All updates will be posted on the Website under the title Updates. The phone message will also reflect plans. Details of safety procedures will be forthcoming as well.



THE LADY BUG

By Anne Chapman

I was taking my normal morning shower when something on the wall caught my eye. Without my contact and glasses, it was fuzzy. Must be a spider, I thought, and gave it a brush off the wall. Soon it was back, slowly ascending the wall. It was a lady bug. What was it doing in here? I had just started my shower and really wanted to finish it without tending to this unexpected visitor, yet I didn't want any harm to come to the little critter.

Suddenly, it was gone and down on the wet floor. Undeterred, it began to climb again. Over and over it fell, only to try and try again. I attempted to coax it to the safest place but it would have nothing to do with that. Unbeknown to it, I did keep it from falling into the drain. My shower was finished and again, it was not on the wall. Looking down, I saw the lady bug. It was on its back, legs flailing helplessly. Then all motion stopped. It appeared exhausted and to have given up.

I quickly dried and put on my clothes, then went back to rescue it. It was still on its back. Was it dead, confused, afraid, or just too tired to move? I gently scooped it up and took it outside where I found a nice cool leaf to put it on. At first it didn't move. Finally, there was a slight sign of life, followed by a slow movement forward. It seemed to be resting for a minute, and then, suddenly, it flew away. All was well.

It was then I realized how much we are like that lady bug. Often, we refuse to seek direction or help from the One who loves us and knows what's best for us. How many times has He rescued us and we don't even realize it? How often have we struggled and struggled to do things "our way" and come to a dead end? Sometimes we humans have to come to the very end of the line, like the lady bug. Sometimes, only then, do we give up and give our situation over to the Lord. He always comes to our rescue!

Be careful (don't worry) for nothing; but in every thing (any matter of life) by prayer and supplication (asking humbly and earnestly) with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7.

ALL OF CREATION DECLARES HIS GLORY

Anonymous

Is the revelation of His glory being exposed in the little things of our day? Why am I seeing it everywhere? Is it just a few “little things” that mean a lot to me?

I see the goings on in a birdhouse just outside my kitchen window and I think is this a picture of what God intended family to be? The two little nuthatches came to the birdhouse to take up residence. First, they clean out some of the old nest stuff, dropping it to the ground and then they do a strange thing. They take out some of the old nest stuff and put it in the crevice of the tree trunk only to come back later and put it back in. It was like hanging out sheets to dry in the wind. They work together getting their house ready and then she disappears. It looks like the house is deserted except he carries food to her while she is sitting on the eggs. After the eggs hatch then they both work together caring and feeding their brood/children. Is this a beautiful picture of what's intended for human families, and His creation has more truth in it than what is displayed in life as we know it on planet earth now? Is that why the Bible tells us that He sees each sparrow/bird that falls? It disrupts His family plan when that death occurs.

I see now in the floating of the cottonwood tree seeds, moved by the wind to a planting place in the ground to grow a giant tree. Our mother tree is, I would guess, 75' tall. Can that represent the parable of the sower and the types of soil? In the wind, the seed is carried (John 3:8) and yet we know that it is the seed of the gospel carried by the Holy Spirit that we are supposed to carry as being children of the Wind that will give birth to little trees.

Then I see that during the night we have had wind because the evidence is that there are a lot of dead leaves fallen from the freshly leafed out trees in this spring. Is the Wind starting to bow in the trees/us sorting out the loosely, non-committed leaves with Laodicea church attitude?

Our pear tree that had so many blossoms to be pollinated by the bees and now I can see that not all the blossoms are coming to be fruit. Are the dead fallen ones a type or picture of those who have rejected God's loving message? So many little things are now starting to reveal His glory. It is the little things that mean a lot. He is so in touch with the little things. The Great God, Creator of the universe and all things, is in touch with us. He loves, He will give us the little thing for us to see how much He cares.

Then as I read about Joseph this morning, my wandering mind started thinking about Joseph and this what I garnered in thought.

My biggest thing about Joseph is found in Genesis 41:45 NKJV and Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphanath-Paaneah. When you look up the meaning of that name it is overwhelming. Savior **of that** age or maybe, savior of the world. No matter which he represents it's a type/picture/parable of Jesus Christ the true Savior of the world. His coat of many colors. Can it represent the glory Jesus had with His Father? Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob, but Jesus, the Only One and favorite Son of God. Clothed in righteousness. No wonder the sons of the viper were jealous, as was Jacob's other 10 sons. The scribes, Pharisees, and high priests were definitely lacking in their works/pride, by/in and of the law as were the 10 brothers of Joseph in their family position.

In Egypt, Joseph rose up to be the savior of the people of Egypt and his own people in the famine of the land. There was definitely a famine in the land to hear from God when the Savior arrived after 400-430 years of silence between the NT and the OT. There was not a word from God until John the Baptist started revealing the Word (John 1:14). Truth.

Joseph ran into the spirit of Jezebel/Babylon in the wife of Potiphar in all her seductive vices as was Jesus tempted in the wilderness by the devil himself. There is a big difference in the powers of these seductions. She was just a woman with all the seductive powers of the flesh. Jesus faced all the seductiveness of the power of Lucifer. I noticed in the time Joseph was in prison that he progressively was lowered in authority until he became the servant of the servants. It began with Potiphar, then the warden (keeper of the prisoners) of the prison and then rock bottom the servant of the servants, the baker and the cupbearer. Gen. 40:4 (and he served them). As Jesus lowered himself, Phil 2:5-11

But then when Joseph died, he had ordered that his bones be carried back to the promise land and be buried there which they did. So, did they carry the bones of the savior of that age 40 years in the wilderness? They must have. A picture of hope in their wilderness journey. There was a time when I almost wept from seeing the truth of this when I saw in the news a couple of years ago that when terrorists had killed Jews in Europe that Netanyahu had the bodies/ bones of those killed brought to be buried in Israel. Little things mean a lot.

But we have this spiritual blessing. The savior of that age was buried. Joseph's bones may remain until this day in that grave. BUT FOR OUR SAVIOR, HE LEFT NO BONES IN THE TOMB. IT WAS EMPTY. HE LIVES. Not as Joseph the type, picture, parable of Jesus, Savior of the world.

Little things mean a lot and have such hidden meaning. Creation and the Word declares it. I got curious about the song I keep referring to and decided to look it up as to why I have been so attracted to the thought. After reading the words and connecting it to the heart's desire of knowing, trusting Jesus, now I know.

Little Things Mean a Lot by Joni James

Blow me a kiss from across the room
Say I look nice when I'm not
Touch my hair as you pass my chair
Little things mean a lot

Give me your arm as we cross the street
Call me at six on the dot
A line a day when you're far away
Little things mean a lot

Don't have to buy me diamonds and pearls
Champagne, sables and such
I never cared much for diamonds and pearls
But honestly honey, they just cost money

Give me your hand when I've lost the way
Give me your shoulder to cry on
Whether the day is bright or gray
Give me your heart to rely on

Send me the warmth of a secret smile
To show me you haven't forgot
Now and forever, that always and ever
Little things mean a lot

Source: LyricFind



NEWS AND UPDATES **(From February Forward)**

A Great Movie Night

On Wed., Feb. 19, two dozen people attended Carl's pot luck and movie night. The food was delicious and the fellowship was great. The movie, "The Encounter," was a big hit. Almost the entire movie was set in a roadside diner during a thunder storm, where Jesus was the proprietor. It had great significance for all of our lives and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Fifteen Trees

Carl's son, Albert, made a work of art out of the church's 15 trees – Crepe Myrtles, Japanese Maples, and a Persimmon tree. Carl's use of his dump trailer made quick work of taking away the branches and leaving the grounds spotless. The care that was taken to thin, prune and shape each tree is much appreciated. Each one looks similar to an artistic Japanese painting. Now that we are into summer, they are healthy and beautiful.

Remodel Project

Prior to the virus hitting, Doug, Hannah and Pastor had been doing major work on changing the janitor room into two bathrooms and reconstructing the nursery bathroom. The whole wall between the janitor room and the nursery facilities was taken down and moved back over a foot to make the bathrooms larger. The entire room was gutted and the flooring completely removed. The plumbing will need to be relocated as well. Once it's done, the two bathrooms will be available for use without having to go into the main building. This will help people using Crone Hall, special functions, the school kids, etc. We'll no longer have to rent portable restrooms for large events. Hannah has been very patient waiting for this project to get underway. With everything torn apart and supplies all over, the project was put on hold due to Covid-19.

Update: Later on, Stephen from the school, with a few helpers, continued to work on the plumbing for a short time. Again, work had to cease.

Janitorial Services

As previously announced, the Trustees terminated the janitorial agreement. A number of people volunteered to assume the work on a rotational basis. After the virus shut everything down, there was no need for regularly scheduled cleaning. Periodic general cleaning will still be performed. Meanwhile, both of the restrooms were in need of a thorough deep cleaning which had not been performed prior to termination of the service.

Diane took it upon herself to spend numerous days alone at the church to clean and sanitize the men's and ladies' rooms. She cleaned "everything" including the walls which had tape and smudges all over them. Although we have new cleaning equipment, it was necessary to get down on her hands and knees to scrub the floors. She even painted the ladder, face board and ceiling access cover in the men's room that goes into the attic where the AC ducts, etc. are. Now, that's way beyond the call of duty!

Cont. on page 17

Janitorial Services Cont.

Later on, the school began holding limited classes and used the sanctuary for a portion of a quarter. The Trustees requested and they agreed to maintain all of the cleaning and trash disposal while they were there.

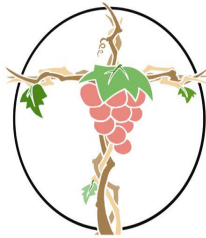
Yattiy School

It is unknown at this time how the school plans to handle upcoming classes. They are on a scheduled break beginning mid-July through sometime in September.

Water Leaks

Hopefully, we will be closing the chapter on this long-term situation. When the water system was turned on in the spring, the water bill escalated more than could be explained. Our gardner, Antonio, repaired numerous small leaks and replaced several valves. Then, he discovered a major leak – a broken pipe – deep down in the ground at the NE corner of the main building, by the walk. He had to remove part of the bush in order to dig down to it and repair it.

That still wasn't the end. Pastor Mike determined another major leak had to be present, way underground. All the sprinklers along the east part of Ellenwood had very low pressure, a clear sign of a leak in the system. The big tree on the corner by the lower parking lot had been taken out and the valves to that part of the system had been replaced. Still, the pressure was low and the water bill way too high. One day, he turned that section of the water on at the control and waited. And waited. And waited. All of a sudden, water started gushing out beneath the cement border. Clearly, it was another major leak, probably a broken pipe way down deep. Antonio has been chopping out tangled roots and big roots and will fix this problem.



To all Torch Recipients: If you see anything in here, i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, dates, spellings, or if someone has been missed, please let the office know. Leave a message at (916) 363-6145. Or send an email to Mayhewcbc@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE YEAR

JANUARY

Birthdays

- 2 Yasuko Yoshino
- 5 Ocille Perry
- 12 Doug Holcombe
- 28 Floyd Gipson
- 30 Glenn Natsuhara

Anniversaries

- 6 George & Gladys Okino
- 24 Ivan & Darnice Thacker

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- 1 Desmond Dietz
- 6 Shirley Motley
- 7 Keiko Kurosaki
- 10 Julie (Yuko) Kersek
- 14 Valeria Natsuhara
- 19 Dora LaVern Doolittle
- 19 Doris Malone
- 22 George Okino
- 23 Morena Holmes Reynolds
- 23 Rock Ferriera
- 24 Louis Carter
- 27 Bill Kitigawa
- 28 Randy Kurosaki

Anniversaries

- 11 Randy & Naomi Kurosaki

MARCH

Birthdays

- 1 Ann Guro
- 4 Holly Crossman
- 6 Tina Sprague
- 8 Marquita Arnold
- 10 Robin Satow
- 17 Ed Jones
- 19 Lois Kramer
- 22 Jodi King
- 26 Andorful Gaisie
- 26 Roy Boyd
- 27 Becca Viola
- 28 Julia Natsuhara
- 30 Anne Chapman

Anniversaries

- 1 Willie & Morena Reynolds
- 21 Bill & Ruth Kitagawa

APRIL

Birthdays

- 16 Rachel Kitigawa
- 18 Fumiko White
- 19 Glenda Spann
- 23 Michael Smith
- 23 Otha Piepenburg
- 30 Lance Richard

Anniversaries – N/A

MAY

Birthdays

- 2 Aisha Motley
- 2 Mike Grady
- 5 Janae Grace Felton
- 6 Eleanor Natsuhara
- 7 Steve Pas
- 8 Chrystal Johnson
- 8 Michael Guro
- 10 Vesta Cudworth
- 10 Jessica Daniel
- 14 Shaliese Motley
- 14 Sharidonn Motley
- 16 Hannah Guro
- 28 Jeff Jefferson
- 28 Hope Nelson
- 29 Agnes Deguchi

Anniversaries

- 12 Roy & Donna Boyd

JUNE

Birthdays

- 2 Margaret Michels
- 2 Tamaryn Crossman
- 3 Joylene Satow
- 3 Brian Burnley
- 6 Ivan Thacker
- 7 Patrick VanNorman
- 16 Marti Tisdale
- 19 Bernice Ingram
- 21 Lodie Gipson
- 22 Kelly Schnase
- 26 Jim Schnase
- 26 John Sprague
- 28 Isaiah Wm Felton
- 30 John Sarbacher
- 30 Quinton Malone

Anniversaries – N/A



JULY

Birthdays

- 2 Lillian Kawamura
- 7 Linda Hauch
- 13 Ted Satow
- 14 Zoey Gumbs
- 16 Lan Ly
- 16 Florene LaBlanc
- 16 Lorene Smith
- 23 Mary Schafer
- 25 Carl Piepenburg
- 27 Beverly Kennedy
- 27 Celine Dietz

Anniversaries

- 14 Melvin & Doris Malone
- 26 Herbert & Glenda Spann

AUGUST

Birthdays

- 3 Kay Yomogida
- 6 Marvin Lewis
- 8 Sheila Daniel
- 9 Pastor Mike Schnase
- 13 Leroy Kennedy
- 14 Kumi Guro
- 18 Karen Woods
- 31 Hector Hernandez

Anniversaries

- 10 John & Diane Sarbacher
- 17 John & Erin Takechi

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

- 7 Salvesh Nadan
- 10 Naomi Kurosaki
- 10 Ruth Kitigawa
- 11 JoAnne Treiber
- 12 Lauren Takechi
- 14 Paulene Conaway
- 15 Jennifer Emmons
- 16 David Harter
- 17 Lee King
- 18 Cynthia Schafer
- 20 Rick Crossman
- 24 Shaam Nadan
- 24 Louise Carter
- 28 John Takechi
- 28 Anthony Williams
- 29 Nella Dietz

SEPTEMBER Cont.

Anniversaries

- 4 Pastor Mike and Luanne Schnase
- 25 Glenn & Valerie Natsuhara
- 26 Michael & Hannah Guro

OCTOBER

Birthdays

- 3 Kojo Gaisie
- 3 Archana Nadan
- 5 Mieke Cone
- 18 Irv Horton
- 22 Colleen Lancaster
- 22 Prudence Crossman
- 29 Luanne Schnase

Anniversaries

- 6 Perry & Karen Woods
- 13 Ted & Joylene Satow
- 28 Carl & Otha Piepenburg

NOVEMBER

Birthdays

- 3 Diane Sarbacher
- 3 Fred Deguchi
- 6 Zachary Choyce
- 6 Lisa Dudham
- 11 Debbie Neal
- 26 Bonnie Alexander
- 29 Mabel Tierce
- 30 Erin Takechi

Anniversaries — NA

DECEMBER

Birthdays

- 1 Crystal Newton
- 3 George Sato
- 7 Tammy Jensen
- 15 Beverly Gumbs
- 22 Kenneth Banks
- 25 Derrick Dietz
- 29 Robert Neal
- 30 Sandee Brown

Anniversaries

- 22 Bob & Hope Nelson
- 23 Floyd & Lodie Gipson



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Fri.: Closed

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