



WESTVALE NEWSLETTER

Westvale Seventh-day Adventist Church
2511 W Genesee St. Syracuse, NY 13219
Pastor: Seong Cho

“TO EVERY thing
there is a season,
and a time to
every purpose
under the heaven:”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

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Space Invaders II Pastor Cho's letter

As I've mentioned before, in Asian cultures we typically do not express affections such as hugging or kissing both at home and in public. So what happened when I arrived in Westvale, home of the life-long huggers? Was I in for a surprise! After a series of traumas and recoveries (refer to previous article), I can confidently say that I have progressed in my hugging skills. Some would adamantly disagree but let's just say that it can only get better. By embracing this new skill, I've discovered a boldness that sprung within me. I believe it was the Lord who gave me this boldness. I was ready to share with others what I learned. I am going to hug people who never taught me how to hug – my parents. This is big! But before you react, consider the context - I can't remember the last time I was hugged or kissed by my parents, and I was taught to keep a distance from those I respect and honor which is a prominent idea in Confucius thinking. So, the question was, how am I going to plan this out, but more importantly, can I really do it? I needed to plan this carefully with an element of surprise, giving them no time to react.

The plan came shortly thereafter. I already had made plans to visit my folks over a weekend. The weekend quickly came, and as usual we all had a great time - except me. I was nervous the whole time. Now it was towards the end of our stay, and almost time to leave. The moment had come. My parents were outside by my car to bid us farewell, and after putting my dog in the back I approached my mom first. I gulped and awkwardly raised my arms, and said "Good bye." To be honest, I'm not sure what I said. All I remember is her smile as she gave me a short, strong and robot-like hug. Then I walked over to my dad. As I went in, his facial expression said,

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is the year 2020! A new year, and a time when we usually reflect on the one that's gone by. The November 2019 edition of *The Stewpot* (produced by Pacific Union Conference, and distributed by the NY Conference) reminded us that there's a time for everything, while highlighting the importance of setting time aside to spend with those we love.

“A large variety of devices have been invented to measure time. The sundial measured time by casting a shadow on a set of markings calibrated to the hour. The water clock could be used to measure time even at night, but required manual upkeep to replenish the flow of water. Today, the Global Positioning System (GPS) in coordination with the Network Time Protocol can be used to synchronize timekeeping systems across the globe.

The measure of sequential time is called *chronos* in Greek, from which we get the word 'chronological.' This measurement pertains to the quantity of time. However, there's another measurement of time that refers not to the second, minute or hour, but to the *quality* of time. It defines the moments, seasons, and opportunities. The Greeks call this *kairos*.

In our attempts to preserve our minutes, we often miss out on our opportune moments. For those people held captive by the *chronos* mindset, the mantra is often, 'Time is money.' But I would like to challenge that mindset with a *kairos* mantra, 'Time is life.'

Like all 'captivity,' the captivity to *chronos* is often based on fear. In our fear-filled pursuit of not wasting precious *chronos*, we often lose more than we gain. When we lose someone we love, we often realize how much we live in *chronos* time rather than *kairos* time.

If time is life, how do we plan to spend it?

- ◆ Are we going to be intentional about how we use it, or are we going to passively allow unimportant

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39th Annual
EVENSONG
December 20, 2019

Sound Advice Quartet sang
“Birthday Of A King”



The African Women sang
“Ndugu Za Yusufu”



Donté and Daphine sang
“Mary, Did You Know?”



Jane Appiah-Okyere sang
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Space Invaders II continued

“What do think you’re doing?” I could feel his arms around my waist; he’s only about 5 foot 3 inches tall. Then we got into our car, and we waved to them as we drove away. It all happened so quickly- thank goodness! That was the most uncomfortable thing I have ever done with my parents. Needless to say I was quite relieved that it was over. The *space invader* broke the ice, and changed how feelings and love are exchanged. We are creatures of habit, and we employ culture to limit our influence and experience. Particularly in the multi-ethnic communities in which we live, we miss out in the opportunity for deeper and wider experiences if we choose to live in isolation.

We are all invaders of various sorts and skills. We are called to share the love of God with others. How can we if we are so isolated? Paul empowers us to break the ice and build bridges with others. He says, “When I am with the Jews, I become one of them so that I can bring them to Christ. When I am with those who follow the Jewish laws, I do the same, even though I am not subject to the law, so that I can bring them to Christ. When I am with the Gentiles who do not have the Jewish law, I fit in with them as much as I can. In this way, I gain their confidence and bring them to Christ. (1 Cor. 9:20,21). *Paul was an icebreaker too!* No culture, no language, no political affiliation should stand in the way of the life changing opportunity to know and love others. *Westvalians* are good at this for which I’m very proud. I challenge everyone to live as *space invaders*.

Since ‘Hug Day,’ I have hugged my parents every opportunity I get, and thankfully our hugs have become less awkward. They still stiffen up, and movements are unnatural. However, what impresses me the most is how they really enjoy hugging. I can see it on their faces; what a joy it is to see that!

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Romans 8:38-39 ESV

Congratulations!

Jann Cady and Joan Payne, Faith Community Nurses for the Westvale Church are now Faith Community Nurse Co-Coordinator for the New York Conference. They were voted to serve in this position by the Executive Committee of the New York Conference on Sunday December 8, 2019. Both will also serve on the AAFC (Adventist Association of Faith Community Nursing) board which is part of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Joan will be starting her second term as Secretary, and Jann will be joining the board as the FCN Representative.

SAVE THE DATE

Westvale's Health Ministry Team
is planning its annual Health Fair for
Sunday, April 5th, from 12 - 3pm at Parkview

Let's not forget our homebound members

Euphemia is one of our homebound; a sweet lady who enjoys visits from her church family. Ephie, as she's affectionately called, might not remember your name, but she loves the company! If at first she seems a bit shy, ask her to tell you about the times when she used to go ice skating or of the time she worked at the Conference Office. She also enjoys the old hymns, and listening to you read her some of the Psalms. You will be blessed by visiting her or other homebound members!



Every So Often ...

Every so often we get dogs, either given to us to re-home, or we rescue them and try to find a good home for them. Most of the dogs or pups that we have gotten are “just ok.” But I have had a few that I just have wanted to keep. The latest one is Izzy- a brindle colored Pitbull. Pitbulls have never really been a favorite of mine. I do not think that they are a very attractive breed.

Izzy has had a rough go in life. Her first owner was a drug addict and an alcoholic. He kept breeding her to get money for his addictions. They were homeless and lived in a car. He is now in jail. I'm not sure how many owners she had, but her last owner would leave her and go away ...
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SPIDER By Jim Miller

How many of you are afraid of spiders? I like spiders; always have. If a spider saved your life would you change your opinion?

During World War II, a US Marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire, he had lost touch with his comrades. Alone in the jungle, he could hear enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside one of the caves. Although safe for the moment, he realized that once the enemy soldiers looking for him swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed. As he waited, he prayed, "Lord, if it is your will, please protect me. Whatever your will though, I love you and trust you. Amen."

After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. He thought, "Well, I guess the Lord isn't going to help me out of this one." Just then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave. As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave.

"Hah" he thought, "what I need is a brick wall, and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web. God does have a sense of humor." As the enemy drew closer, he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to him, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered it for quite a while. "Lord, forgive me," prayed the young man, "I had forgotten that in You a spider's web is stronger than a brick wall."

How often do we feel that we would be safer behind a 4' thick manmade wall, than behind a flimsy little web that a spider built...? Hopefully one day we all put our faith in a spider web that God built for us.

Happy New Year! continued

things to crowd out the important?

- ◆ Are we going to use it to benefit not only ourselves but others, or are we going to keep it to ourselves?
- ◆ Are we going to allow ourselves to be bound by *chronos* for the sake of wealth or power, or are we going to embrace *kairos* and be free to truly live?"

Excerpts used by permission. See the complete article in the November 2019 issue of *The Stewpot*.

*"From the moment I saw you,
I started to pray.
Big prayers and small ones
I have sent God's way...
I'll pray where you go,
that wherever you land,
you'll find purpose and meaning
and a role in God's plan.
That you'll know who you are.
And like what you do.
And love yourself fully,
as God wants you to."
From When I Pray For You
By Matthew Paul Turner*

Every So Often ... continued

for the weekends. The only way she got fed on the weekends was from the neighbors. That owner died from a heart attack the beginning of the week. The person that was going to take care of the estate was going to lock her in a shed till he decided what to do with her. After all she has been thru, she is one of the most loving dogs I have ever seen. I spent the night at the doghouse, and Izzy slept with me. It took her awhile to stop shaking and whimpering before she fell asleep. Then this morning she was doing the same thing. As I was sitting beside her, she laid her head on my lap and she finally stopped.

Every so often a ray of light shines exceptionally bright in this job. I never would have had some of the experiences I have had with dogs if I had not been doing this. Every so often God parts the clouds, and a special ray of sunshine shines upon us all. Maybe just for a brief moment, but it has a specific reason. The reason may be blatantly obvious, and sometimes it may take a little while to figure it out. But just realizing that God did it just for each one of us, and just for us, it just shows how our Heavenly Father looks out for us.

[Jim Miller & his wife Debbie are owners of a dog day-care, and also board dogs there].