



The Nature of God's Love

By Pastor Basil Bell & Nancy (Neuharth) Troyer

We have embarked on a new year. Undoubtedly the New Year will have challenges that need to be overcome, mistakes that need to be corrected, troubles that cannot be dodged, and problems that we never dreamt of - that is the nature of life. Life is too big for any one of us. If we are observant we will also see that apart from troubles there will be many a blessing. But how do we deal with the inevitable troubles that will come away? Our success as Christians will depend on remembering and trusting in the goodness, mercy, and love of our God. The book of Hebrews gives us good advice, it says: **5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:5-6**

I was reading an encouraging story from Nancy Troyer's new book that spoke to me about the goodness of God. The dad in this story is our own church member Ruben Neuharth, who exemplifies something of the kindness of God. Here it is:

I was extremely upset as I stepped out of my car and evaluated the damage done by a large semi-truck parked just ahead of me. I was in the right, I thought, driving up on the right side of a truck that didn't seem to be up to anything unusual. But I was wrong. I hadn't seen the red blinking turn signals as I cruised along beside the truck. Suddenly, I was horrified as the truck entered my lane. I heard the sound of crunching metal. Shocked, I yelled. I was mad. What was he doing? And finally the trucker stopped.

When police officers arrived, the trucker explained his side of the story. He had been turning right on a wide angle to avoid the curb. He had activated his turn signals, too, and here was this teenager...I objected with a bit of mildly suppressed hysteria. "Wait a minute, sir. You didn't use your turn signal!" It was then that we both realized what had happened. He hadn't seen me beside him because I was located in his blind spot and I hadn't seen his signal because I was beside him, not behind him.

There were no cell phones then but somehow I got to a nearby phone and called my father. "Dad," I said between sobs, "I've been in an accident. I'm so sorry!" There was a pause and then Dad replied with just the right words that I needed so desperately at that moment. After all, this was Dad's car we were talking about. He asked, "Are you all right?" That question took me aback for a moment. "Well, yes, I'm OK..."

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"The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

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Editor's Note:

Greetings! I found this cool website that lists the different languages on how to say Happy New Year - Hau'oli Makahiki Hou (in Hawaiian of course), Feliz Nuevo Ano (Spanish), Heri Za Mwaka Mpya (Swahili), L'Shannah Tovah (Hebrew), and Naya Saal Mubbarak Ho (Urdu)...just to name a few...whew...interesting huh?! Whatever language you speak, my hope is that you all have a blessed, peaceful, stress-free 2012! Also, that we walk closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we get close to the end of this earthly life and look forward to His glorious return where He takes us home to heaven...forever...AMEN!

Aloha, Nalani

Prayer is the Answer

Author Unknown (However, I received this from Mr. Ruben Neuharth just before a prayer session, thank you!)

Prayer is the answer to every problem in life. It puts us in tune with divine wisdom which knows how to adjust everything perfectly.

So often we do not pray in a certain situation because from our standpoint the outlook is hopeless. But nothing is impossible with God. Nothing is so entangled that it cannot be remedied. No human relationship is too strained for God to bring about reconciliation and understanding. No habit is too deep-rooted that it cannot be overcome. No one is so weak that he cannot be made strong. No one is so ill that he cannot be healed. No mind is so dull that it cannot be made brilliant.

Whatever we need or desire if we trust in God, He will supply it. If anything is causing worry and anxiety, let us stop rehearsing the difficulty and trust God for healing love and power.



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Suddenly there was a big space in my heart with a question mark. Was I okay? My thoughts wandered off briefly to memories of accidents I had driven by in the past. Then I came back to the present situation. "But Dad, what about your car?" I offered, timidly. He assured me he was far more interested in my well-being than the condition of the car. It was then that I settled back in a cushion of care enveloped in my father's love.

To this day, that's all I remember -- no details about the car or the cost of repair or the police report. The instant my Dad responded so lovingly to his errant daughter's actions, that memory became a proverb and turned my thoughts toward my heavenly Father, who doesn't use blinkers at all to communicate with me when I mess up. He uses hand signals. "Nancy," He says, "Are you OK? You know I love you. Just look at My Hands."

"Hand Signals" is one of many true stories in Nancy Neuharth Troyer's new book, "The Other Side of the Boat", Pacific Press, 2010. It will be available at AdventistBookCenter.com after January 15, 2012.

Isaiah 49:16

"See I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me."

Proverbs 30:5

"Every word of God is pure, He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him."

BASIC
INFORMATION
BEFORE
LEAVING
EARTH



Recipe of the Month

Quinoa & Spinach Salad, *deliciousliving.com*

Serves 6 / Prep Time 8 mins / Cook Time 20 mins

- ¾ cup quinoa (well washed)
- ¼ t sea salt
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1 T extra virgin olive oil
- ½ large sweet onion, diced
- 1-1/2 cups diced bell peppers (red, yellow, or orange)
- 1 pound fresh spinach leaves
- 1 (14 oz) can cannellini beans (rinsed & drained)
- 2 large cloves garlic (pressed or minced)
- 1t crushed red pepper flakes

Directions:

1. In a small saucepan, combine quinoa, salt, and water. Bring to a full boil. Cover and reduce heat to low; cook for 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Let sit for 5 minutes; then fluff with a fork.
2. Meanwhile, heat olive oil over medium-high heat in a large skillet. Add onions and peppers and sauté until soft, about 5 minutes. Add spinach and beans and continue cooking until spinach is wilted, about 5 minutes. Add garlic, red pepper flakes, and salt and pepper to taste. Stir to combine.
3. In a large bowl, combine cooked quinoa with spinach mixture. Serve immediately.

PER SERVING: 195 cal, 4g fat (2g mono, 1g poly, 1g sat), 0mg chol, 10g protein, 31g carb, 7g fiber, 357mg sodium

Calendar of Events

- 1 – Happy New Year (Hau'oli Makahiki Hou)
- 8 – Adventurer's Meeting, 6-8p (Geologists Award)
- 10 – Senior Luncheon – Hometown Buffet/SM, 1p
- 14 – Dr. Wes Youngberg Presentation – Detoxing for Optimal Health
- 24 – Finance Comm, 6p / Church Board, 7p
- 29 – Adventurer's Meeting, 6-8p (Troubadour Award)

Reminders / FYI ~

Please remember that there are several small group studies at the church and at private residences, see the Calendar / Bulletin for details. Also, there are weekly Wednesday prayer meetings in English @ 6:10p and Spanish @ 7p at the church.

NEWSLETTER INFO

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Friday / Sabbath Sunset Times

- Jan 6 / 7 – 4:56p / 4:57p
- Jan 13 / 14 – 5:02p / 5:03p
- Jan 20 / 21 – 5:09p / 5:10p
- Jan 27 / 28 – 5:15p / 5:16p

January Birthdays



- 1 – Stephen Eng
- 4 – Juan Hernandez
- 5 – Joe Davis
- 6 – Mario Cortez
- 9 – Elijah Wagoner
Mary Ramirez
- 12 – Jarrod Ford
Angelica Romero
Nathen Steiger
- 13 – Kevin Meza
- 14 – Heather Steiger
Bill Thompson
- 17 – Kevin Gordon
- 18 – Tom Thompson
- 20 – Eloisa Ramirez
- 22 – Terry Wegand
- 23 – Bill Diehl
- 26 – Kevin Bolanos
Ellen Murdick
- 29 – Greg Pearson
- 30 – Edith Martinez
Patresha Pearson

Church Service is held on Saturdays.

Sabbath School – 9:20AM
Worship Service – 10:45AM

May the good Lord bless & keep you!