

AMAZING GRACE INTERFAITH MINISTRY
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TO: All Friends of Amazing Grace and News From The Heart Readers

Many Blessings to all on you on Passover, Easter, Ramandan and birth of Lord Rama

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Stephanie wanted to be a dancer since she was four. That dream shattered when she woke up at 18 in a hospital bed to learn that her foot had been amputated following an auto accident. Those around her would not allow her dream to be quashed. Her mother affirmed that Stephanie was still a dancer, even if she only had one foot. Her dance friends swarmed her hospital bed insisting and believing Stephanie would dance again, inspiring her by plastering the walls of her hospital room with posters of world-famous dancers. Her dance teacher and the dean at her performing arts high school assured Stephanie she would continue to be a dancer. It worked. "The doctors amputated my foot, but they didn't amputate my soul, and my soul needs to dance," she told a reporter. At her high school graduation three and a half months later, Stephanie inspired the crowd when she took the stage, dancing with just one leg. Her story spread, and strangers began raising money for reconstructive surgery, physical therapy and prostheses. Stephanie has a successful international career as a professional dancer. She also opens possibilities for others as an instructor for an organization that offers free classes to those with disabilities.



Stephanie's story demonstrates the power of community. It's no different for us being in spiritual community. We are not meant to do this life alone. Being active in spiritual community encourages, uplifts and shepherds us to a deeper connection with God through each other.

OPPORTUNITY DISGUISED by Rev. J. McFadden

Concealed within each problem is an opportunity for spiritual growth resulting in greater understanding

When I was a substitute teacher for a third-grade class, the intense hot weather made worse by mask wearing, made concentration difficult. As I was getting ready to take students out to the playground for some much-needed activity, a storm rolled through canceling recess. Before I move to Plan B, a movie, the power went out. No recess, no movie, no fans to keep us cool. Just then, their teacher who had been at a meeting came rushing in. She began taking books off her shelves so I could implement Plan C for recess. I started reading the book on the top of the pile, "What Do You Do With A Problem?" The book, written by Kobi Yamada with beautiful illustrations offers an absolutely wonderful story. The main character starts out with a problem, which brings on worries, what ifs, would's and could's, growing the problem to intimidating proportions. The more the boy tried to ignore it, the bigger it got. Finally, he decided to face the problem, only to discover that the problem had a huge secret: It held inside an opportunity to and grow. My "Problem" that day in third grade was an opportunity for me to have an enjoyable reminder of the gifts in every seeming problem!!

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Our fourth grader celebrated his birthday on crutches, so he couldn't carry the cupcakes into class without help. I asked our sixth grader, Tom to help his brother carry them in. "I could, but I'd prefer not to." he said. My husband asked Tom, "What would Jesus do?" Tom answered, "Jesus would heal him so he could carry his own cupcakes."



When I was younger I had an ego. But it gets in the way. A. Hopkins

ORDER IN THE UNIVERSE

Mimi experienced every mother's nightmare, when her daughter, Sally, died at age 18 after falling off a cliff in Switzerland. At age 10 Sally had written a message, placed it in a green plastic ginger ale bottle and tossed it into the waters off Long Island. The message was a simply quote from her favorite movie "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure": "Be excellent to yourself, dude!" A dozen years later after Superstorm Sandy devastated the Northeast, Patchogue Parks Department employees found the bottle during cleanup efforts. They called the phone number included with the note and left a voicemail. Mimi called back crying. The message was indeed from her daughter and Mimi took it as a sign that Sally was letting her know not to worry. Amazing that in just over eight years the bottle had traveled only a mile or two from where Sally tossed it into the sea. And Sally included her phone number so the note could make its way to her mother. When things do not look orderly, we can remember there is order in the universe because God created it.



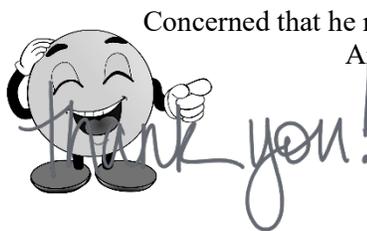
GIVING & RECEIVING

The Indian Choctaw Nation saw more than its fair share of hardship, having suffered the Trail of Tears and a forced relocation to Oklahoma. But when they heard about thousands of people dying in Ireland during the great potato famine in 1847, they set aside their own struggles and opted for compassion. They pooled their money and sent \$170 worth about \$5,581 in today's dollars to Ireland. The Irish never forgot the Native Americans' generosity and the two peoples, more than 4,000 miles apart and separated by the Atlantic Ocean, bonded. When the Navajo and Hopi Nations were hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the highest per-capita infection rate after New York and New Jersey, the Irish responded in force. They donated to a fund with a \$5million goal that would help supply food, water and medical supplies to the Native Americans. The Irish poured out the same compassion to the Navajo and Hopi that the Native Americans of the 19th century demonstrated for the Irish. This story beautifully illustrated Luke 6:38: "Give, and it shall be given unto you," Or, as the old adage goes, "You reap what you sow."

JUMP INTO THE FLOW OF GOODNESS BY Rev. C. Sorensen

This Easter season, it seems appropriate to reflect on Jesus' comment to the thief on the cross next to him "Today you shall be with me in paradise." It doesn't say tomorrow, the next day or the following week. If you feel you are out of sync somehow you are not with the life current of today. To get back in all you have to do is surrender the practices you are holding onto that are keeping you from your greater good. Today is the day! Ernest Holmes says, "God can do *for* us only what He can do *through* us." Through us is movement, circulation is life. Circulation is good for your body. It's good for the environment and good for your world. Movement keeps the system healthy as well as blessing those it comes in contact with. It is important to get into the flow by placing what you know into action. Cast your bread upon the waters and it will return. It is pretty simple, but we tend to make it complicated. We must get into the game of life in order to play. Don't regret yesterday. The current is here now and moving through you today. Regret of yesterday or fear for tomorrow creates contraction. Abundance is expansion. Constriction comes from fear, and that cuts down the flow. Feeling like you can't, shouldn't or it's impossible is what keeps you on the sidelines watching others play the game. The game of life is a game of boomerangs. Our thoughts, deeds and words return to us sooner or later. A whole new day awaits you that has always been available to you- ante up, jump in and get moving!!

MORE LAUGHTER



Concerned that he might have put on a few pounds, my husband exited the bathroom and asked, "Do you think my chin is getting fat?" I smiled lovingly and replied, "Which one?"

AMAZING GRACE INTERFAITH MINISTRY

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to the give-a-way on Saturday, April 2nd. We had 45 Families with 120 children registered. We gave Easter Baskets donated by the Daughters of Charity at St. Clare's Catholic Church, arts & crafts to take home to the children and large bags of food (Pasta, Mac & Cheese, tuna, soup, lunch items etc) and a \$50 Target gift card to each family. None of this could happen without YOU. This is YOUR outreach; this is YOUR Ministry. Those who give will receive, but we don't do this to receive. We do this for the love of God and his children. Remember Jesus said, "Whatever you do for these little ones you do for me."





Thank you to all volunteers Magen, Jamina, Tina, Roxanne, Gina, Joie, Raphael, Jean and Blanny You are all angels from Heaven. Blessing on all of the Readers of News From The Heart who donate Ruth & Matt Dugan, Gregg Sheridan, Alice Sabatino, Fran & Dick, Gina, Jerrie, Cheryl, Morgan Carol and Ken Jacob, Mona & Vin Zaloom, Gale LaForge, Carol Nelson, Nikki Sprague and so many more...God Bless all of you!!

We are collecting shampoo/conditioner, toothbrushes/toothpaste, lunch items etc. for distribution on Saturday, May 7. We will have a gift bag for each child to give their Mom on Mother's Day with earrings, lavender lotion and perfume donated by Lee Kramer. Rev. Francine use her gift of great decorating to put the gift bags together. If you would like to donate, please make the donation out to Amazing Grace Interfaith Ministry not the Amazing Kids Connection and mail to the above address Attn Rev. Mary Hansen. We are enclosing some pictures of the April Event with the children.

Please pray for Pat Martino who is still undergoing chemo. Morgan, Adam and Anwen safe trip Roxanne and Martha Hansen for healing. For Gladys and Ralph and Ralph's Mom. Joie's Mom and Raphael's son for peace. Susan and Ralph Lambert dealing with dementia. Warren recovering surgery Rosalie, Pam and her daughter, Lucille and Tom for good health. For Dr. Jerri and her family for comfort on the death of her sister, Muriel. For Derin Hansen graduating college may he find doors opening for his good. Prayers for Sr. Michael and the Presentation nuns. Thank you God for my Magen who does all the work for the Ministry. Prayers for Bobby Bulger an old friend and our good friend Monsignor Joseph Murphy who loved the Amazing Kids Connection.

LET GOD BE YOUR HANDS!!

Let God be in Your hands when you touch your neighbor.

Let God be in your eyes when you see the dawn.

Let God be in your heart when you daily labor.

Let God be in your feet when the way seems long.

Let God be there in the mists of the day's beginning

Let God be there when the twilight's dew

Let God be in your losses and your winnings

Let God guide your life....

He can do it better than you. By Earlyne Chaney 1987

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A CHILD OF GOD

My wife, grandson and I had been shopping and were about to leave for home. Nearby, an older man was waving a sign, "Navy Vet. Will dance for food." I intended to ignore him and drive on, but my 16-year-old grandson stopped me. He said, "Papa, the man is hungry, we need to buy him lunch." I sometimes ignore people holding similar signs because I question their sincerity. My grandson reminded me of a reading from Matthew. "Truly, as you do for one of the least of these, you do for me." It did not matter if the man was a veteran, or willing to dance, or even if his need was sincere. He was a child of God who was hungry. We purchased lunch for the man who blessed us as he received the food. As I received his blessing, I know that I had learned a valuable lesson.

Oh God forgive us when we dismiss the needs of others. Thank you for the people who remind us to offer when we can to help those in need. Amen.

YES YOU CAN !

What if at age 46 you were burned beyond recognition in a motorcycle accident and 4 years later were paralyzed from the waist down in an airplane crash? Can you imagine yourself becoming a millionaire, respected speaker, a happy newlywed and successful business person? Can you see yourself going white water rafting? Sky diving? Running for political office?

W. Mitchell has done all these and more AFTER two accidents left his face a quilt of multicolored skin grafts, hands fingerless and legs thin and motionless in a wheelchair. The 16 surgeries Mitchell endured after the motorcycle accident burned more than 65 percent of his body, left him unable to pick up a fork, dial a phone or go to the bathroom without help. But Mitchell, a former Marine, never believed he was defeated. "I am in charge of my own spaceship," he said. "It's my up, my down I could choose to see this as a setback or starting point." Six months later he was piloting a plane again. He teamed up with two friends and co-founded a wood burning stove company that grew into be Vermont's second largest.

Four years after the motorcycle accident the plane Mitchell was piloting crashed on the runway during takeoff, crushing Mitchell's thoracic vertebra and permanently paralyzing him from the waist down. "I wondered what the hell was happening to me. What did I do to deserve this? Mitchell worked day and night to regain as much independence as possible. He was elected Mayor of Butte, Colorado, to save the town from mineral mining that would ruin its beauty and environment. Mitchell later ran for Congress, turning his odd appearance into an asset with slogans such as, "Not Just Another Pretty Face." Despite his chocking looks and challenger, Mitchell began white water rafting, fell in love, and married, earned a master's degree in public administration, and continued flying, and public speaking.

Mitchell's unshakable Positive Mental Attitude earned him appearances of the "Today Show" and "Good Morning America" as well as feature articles in Parade, Time, The New York Times, and other publications. "Before I was paralyzed, there were 10,000 things I could do," Mitchell says. "Now there are 9,000. I can either dwell on the 1,000 I lost or focus on the 9,000 I have left. I tell people that I have had two big bumps in my life. If I have chosen not to use them as an excuse to quit, then maybe some of

the experiences you are having which are pulling you back can be put into a new perspective. You can step back, take a wider view, and have a change to say, "Maybe that isn't such a big deal after all."

Remember: "It's not what happens to you, it's what you do about it."

Once again, I wish all of you a beautiful Holiday season. We will be on Zoom



Sunday, May 1st Gratitude For Our Earth

Sunday, May 8th Mother's Day Service

11AM – ID: 82340530576 Password 068808



And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Love Mary