WIND OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES Newsletter

MAY 2014

### **CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME**

This is a special time of the year when we celebrate and honor our mothers. In a broader context it is a time when we call it the Festival of the Christian Home. It is a wonderful time for families!

Like the Apostle Jude, even though I had wanted to write about the joy of celebrating such a special event, in light of what is happening in and to our culture, I felt instead, that I had to write the following:

It is no secret that there is an all-out attack on the family and the traditional—and Biblical, understanding of what constitutes marriage and family.

Traditional Christian values related to marriage and the family are being ridiculed by large segments of society—inside, as well as outside, of the church.

Scripture appears to be very clear [but apparently not to all who read the same Scriptures] that God designed marriage as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman. At the very time of Creation, God set the standard for that relationship." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

When Jesus was questioned by some Pharisees about divorce, Jesus told them, "At the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.' Mark 10:5-9 Jesus repeats what God told Adam and Eve at Creation. God's plan appears to be fairly clear!

The basic purpose of this relationship—as with all other male/female relationships in creation, is for procreation - the survival of the species through the offspring of that relationship.

In addition, the husband/wife relationship also provides for companionship and fulfillment, even if there are no offspring.

Statistics and studies are readily available to show that when children are raised in the nuclear family where they have the love and guidance of both mother and father, they grow and mature into more stable and productive children and adults. When either parent is absent, it has dramatic impact on that child's emotional and spiritual development.

For two thousand years the church has been a stalwart defender of the Christian home and the importance of family—consisting of one father and mother, for the stability of a society. Most cultures, pagan or otherwise, have recognized the importance of this contribution of the family to their total welfare.

However, many are now making every effort to redefine marriage, based not on God's plan for man and woman, but based on a perceived human need for personal fulfillment and gratification that can be found only in relationships outside that plan.

It is my belief that the real tragedy of this redefining of God's plan for marriage and the home, is not that it is promoted by groups that have no knowledge of God's plan. The real tragedy is that there are Christian leaders, pastors and bishops, who unashamedly promote a redefining of marriage by approving of and conducting same-gender 'marriages.' It may sound logical—and even gracious, to our human nature and desires to allow ourselves the freedom to express love [even "Christ's love"] in these relationships. After all, He told us to "love one another."

It appears that our human and imperfect understanding of "freedom." "love" and grace, has trumped God's definition and understanding of the same things.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatian Christians, "You were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature." 5:13

Jude wrote, "There are people who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality." v.4

May God show us how to honor family and Him! le

Revs. Larry and Audrey Eddings

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#### FILIPINO FIESTA MISSION CELEBRATION

Our team has just returned from a Medical Mission Trip to the Visayas area of the Philippines. This is the area that was devastated by the major Typhoon that destroyed vast areas of that part of the Philippines, including major cities like Bohol and Cebu.

The team, Connie Bartolome, Amivic Clark, Kay San Pedro and Caitlin Bull, spent two weeks ministering to people in these two major areas. They were joined by local pastors and workers in Bohol and Cebu to provide medication and supplies to over six hundred families. They also were blessed with six doctors who volunteered to help in the Bohol area.

Larry and Audrey, with a ministry team of Pam Denton and Bob and Tracy Martello, had previously been in the Philippines in the late Fall of 2013 at the invitation of Bishop Rudy Juan of the Manila Episcopal Area, to speak at four gatherings of pastors and workers across his conference area. The Eddings planned to be with the Medical Team, returning to another area to minister to a University Staff, but plans changed and this event is postponed until the future.

The **FILIPINO FIESTA** is our way of sharing with those who provided prayer and financial support for these two missions.

Traditional Filipino food will be served at no cost to those who attend. There will also be a time of worship and sharing with power point slides of the areas in which the work was done.

We give thanks to God for all of you who provided prayer and financial support for these ministry trips. We also praise God for the lives that were touched by Jesus, families given hope through medical and other supplies and local churches that experienced a touch of God's Holy Spirit in their ministry leadership.

Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00 p.m. and the program will conclude at 8:00 p.m.

You will not want to miss this event! Come, see and hear how God is working to restore a part of the Philippines devastated by the Typhoon. Come also to hear how God is working to restore families and communities who lost virtually everything in this tragedy.

Come and be reminded that we have a God who works in the midst of the tragedies of our lives on earth, to strengthen faith and give hope!

## **GIVE BIG DAY IS MAY 6**

The Seattle Foundation's Fourth Annual GiveBig Day will take place on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

This annual event gives opportunity for non-profits to receive special financial support through the Seattle Foundation for their work. Wind of the Spirit Ministries is one of the non-profits on the Seattle Foundation's network.

The Seattle Foundation has a *STRETCH FUND* that is available to help increase the size of the gifts to each non-profit, based on how much is contributed to that organization. The greater the gifts the greater percentage of the Stretch Fund is available.

The Foundations states: "We will 'stretch' all donations up to \$5,000 per donor, per organization." This means that Wind of the Spirit Ministries will participate in receiving additional funds depending on the amount of each donation to the Ministry as well as the 'stretch' money that is available to the Foundation.

*GiveBig* is a one day, online charitable giving event to inspire people to give generously to nonprofit organizations who make our region a healthier and more vital place in which to live.

Donations to Wind of the Spirit Ministries may be made in two ways, both by use of your credit card. On May 6, midnight to midnight:

- 1. Go directly to **Seattlefoundation.org**, **search** for and click on *Wind of the Spirit Ministries link* and make your donation. **OR**
- 2. Go to Wind of the Spirit Ministries website: www. wosm-nw.org, click on May 6, 2014 GiveBIG, follow the directions and make your contribution.

This is a great opportunity to see our donations stretched and in some cases they may be doubled during this **Give-BIG day.** 

Can donations be made by people outside the Seattle Area? YES! This is not merely a local event. Anyone who desires to donate may follow the above directions and make a donation.

The ongoing work of Wind of the Spirit Ministries is supported through the financial gifts of persons who desire to be involved in helping to equip the people of God for works of ministry. This is done through workshops, seminars, classes and healing academies.

We give thanks to God for all of you who continue to uphold this ministry with your prayers, financial contributions and personal contacts with words of encouragement.

WEB-PAGE Wind of the Spirit Web Page address is www.wosm-nw.org

#### THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

As we celebrate Mother's Day and the Festival of the Christian Home, it is good to look at the primary ways in which God provides for a healthy and wholesome family unit.

When the Ten Commandments [Words] were given by God through Moses to the people of Israel, God included two that refers to family relationships: Exodus 20: 12, 14

- "Honor your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."
- "You shall no commit adultery."

These commandments are restated in the New Testament in different words, but with the same meaning. Husbands and wives are to "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Ephesians 5:21, 32, 33

Verse 21 is followed by instructions on how husbands and wives are to treat each other. **IF** women read their verses only [22-24] and **IF** men would read their verses only [25-31],,, things could go very well. The trouble is husbands and wives have a tendency to read the verses directed to the other spouse and say "see this is how you're supposed to treat me." Life is easier when we stick to our own script.

There is a good word for children also. "Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." 6:1-13. Showing honor and respect results in joy in the family.

Here is a good word for both parents, though directed to the fathers. "Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." 6:4 Exasperate: "to irritate, to annoy exceedingly, to infuriate." It is a well known fact that children who are irritated, annoyed and infuriated by their parents, become children who are an irritation, an annoyance and have the ability to infuriate others around them—even those beyond the family circle.

The training and instruction of the Lord is to love them, protect them, provide for them and teach them to honor, respect, love and live a life of integrity, following the way of Jesus.

God designed these family laws to provide a way for wholeness in the family circle. Then these basic family laws are obeyed, the family experiences relational health and wholeness. When they are disobeyed the result is breakdown of the family unit, binging suffering upon the very ones whom we love and with whom we are most closely related.

God's laws were not designed to restrict or curtail a family's freedom, but to provide healthy boundaries and guidelines, the following of which results in the family becoming a "miniature Kingdom of God" on earth.

Let us continue to give thanks to God for our family members and lift them before God each day in prayer. "Father God, thank you for working your perfect will in my family today. Keep all of us open to the presence of your Holy Spirit. Amen"

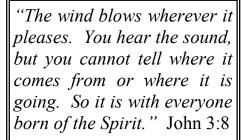
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#### **MAY 2014**

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# MINISTRY CALENDAR

#### PLEASE POST AND PRAY FOR THESE EVENTS

OTHER MINISTRY EVENTS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES Eddings Email address: woseddings@msn.com

MAY 3	"Filipino Fiesta" at Silverdale UMC, Reports on Medical and Ministry trips to the Philippines
MAY 6	GIVEBIG DAY sponsored by the Seattle Foundation for STRETCH gifts to Non-profits
MAY 12-19	Larry & Audrey on Vacation Trip to Mexico
JUNE 28	ANNUAL WIND OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES' BOARD AND COUNCIL MEEETING at Silver- dale United Methodist Church
JULY 16-20	ALDERSGATE CONFERENCE in Springfield, IL