

## Amazing Debt— Amazing Grace

By Char Bystrom

Every month it's the "gift that keeps on giving"... utility bills, property taxes, income taxes, purchases made, trash collection, education, rent, homeowners association, medical insurance. Pay on time or there can be consequences, right? Our culture is one of "indebtedness." Credit card debt is astronomical, nationwide, and according to *USA Today*, 19% of bankruptcy filers are, believe it or not, college students! We are constantly reminded of our "indebtedness," our need to pay our bills. We are surrounded by a host of those waiting to collect what is due.

Back in those early years, when we were pregnant with our first child, we were "living on a shoestring," as some might say. Actually, it was tuna fish, tuna fish, tuna fish, and little else. (Forty plus years later and I still have an aversion to tuna casserole!) At the time, Cru (the ministry we worked for) had no maternity insurance. It was daunting, to say the least. I think it was my second appointment with the obstetrician that Ron and I had tried to figure out a payment plan in the midst of much prayer. How were we ever going to pay the bills when we weren't even getting a full paycheck? (A **full** paycheck back then would have been only \$510/month).

When I went to the front desk to check out and to propose the plan, the receptionist checked my records, only to say, "Your account has been paid in full." Mouth agape, I asked her to double check, because there must be some mistake. No! It had been paid in full anonymously! Imagine the shock and emotions that followed! Disbelief, relief, joy, a sense of freedom from fear and anxiety, relief. Did I mention relief? The list goes on. It was

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## A Believers Baptism



Meng Emma Li, her husband Yili Tzang from the Chinese church, and Windsor Chapel's Brett Wilson participated in a Believer's Baptism during a combined church service. Pastor Andy and Pastor Suen performed the baptisms. Hymns were performed in both English and Chinese. Pastor Suen translated Tom Taylor's sermon to Chinese.

## “Amazing Debt...” continued...

nothing **we** had done! We no longer needed to be concerned about those bills with the obstetrician. They had been paid in full!

Now, can you imagine if I had walked away, only to come back for the next appointment, check in hand, to pay what was already paid in full? That would not only be ridiculous, but I suspect the receptionist would begin to question my ability to understand reality. And yet, isn't that what I do at times in my relationship with God? When my “self” is drawn into the subtleties of thinking how something I have done (or not done), something I have thought or something I have said could change the way God looks at me, or how much His love or favor He would now extend to me, I am doing exactly the same thing. Exactly! **I** am trying to pay for something that is already “paid in full.”

Here is the part of amazing grace that truly is, well, AMAZING! God does not love me less...or more...based on the things I say, think, or do. There is no sin I can do that will cause Him to love me any less. There is nothing I can do, even with the purest of motives, no matter how sacrificial in nature or amazing by the world's standards, that would ever cause Him to love me anymore. There are no “brownie points” to be earned. Nada, zilch, zero, not a one! ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! God's grace has done it all through the cross!

Of course it is our responsibility to pay our earthly bills, but when we transfer those funds, or write those checks, it could be a great opportunity for us to take a moment to reflect on our relationship with Christ and our debt being “paid in full”—or the Greek, TETELESTAI: “It is finished, will continue to be finished/ is paid in full.” These were Christ's next to last words on the cross. Yes, we do have an overwhelming debt with God—our sin and separation from God cannot be satisfied by anything we can or ever could do. But He did it all! And that translates into our everyday living as well—in His grace, through His righteousness, through His death (and resurrection!). It is finished! It is paid in full!

We can let go of our attempts, subtle as they may be, to earn points with God. As my friend, Cindy, so

often says, “It's not about me. It's about Him.” **He** loves us. When we enter into a relationship with Him, **our debt is paid in full.** **His** love never changes. **His** acceptance never wavers. We may stumble and fail along the journey, but He does not, will not. Never, ever....



## Dessert Bunco Game Night



## Uplift—The New Prayer and Praise Ministry

By Amy Kasternakis

My dear friend and prayer mentor Nancy Baran would say, “God doesn’t need our help, but He lets us come along for the ride. Isn’t that cool?!” In that spirit, I would like to invite everyone to deepen their experience regarding the power of prayer by participating in prayer and praise with other members of the body of Christ at Windsor Chapel. It is so amazing that the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe has allowed us to come boldly before the throne of grace and influence His heart. It is such a privilege to function as a healthy church family where we care for and uplift one another as we journey through this life. The vision of the UPLIFT ministry is that every attender of Windsor Chapel is upheld spiritually, physically and emotionally by the power of prayer. The Uplift team would like to highlight three opportunities for prayer and praise at Windsor Chapel.

### 1. The Prayer Chain ([prayer@windsorchapel.org](mailto:prayer@windsorchapel.org))

If you are not a member of the prayer chain and would like to begin receiving email requests from your church family, please note that on your chapel card in your Sunday bulletin or email [chapel@windsorchapel.org](mailto:chapel@windsorchapel.org). You do not have to be a member of the prayer chain in order to post requests. The UPLIFT team wants to encourage everyone to post any request that the Lord puts on your heart so that we can stand together. In addition, you can utilize the prayer chain to post answers to prayer and praise. It is encouraging to hear and see the power and creativity of God’s spirit in answering our corporate prayers. Be bold, God can handle any request. The request can be personal, on behalf of someone else, or a concern in the world.

### 2. Prayer and Praise Partners

It is a goal of the UPLIFT team that everyone at Windsor Chapel who wants a Prayer and Praise Partner can have one. The purpose of this

connection would be for prayer requests that feel too sensitive or confidential to post on the prayer chain. You would have the ability to text, email or call your partner with any requests you have and know they will be upholding you confidentially in prayer for your specific request. If you do not already have a Prayer and Praise Partner and would like one, please contact Amy Kasternakis ([akas12@verizon.net](mailto:akas12@verizon.net))

### 3. UPLIFT—Prayer and Praise Connection

COMING SOON to Windsor Chapel will be a dedicated space and time for Prayer and Praise Connection. It is our goal to create an area in the Sanctuary, immediately following the worship service, where members of the UPLIFT team are available to join in prayer or praise with individual attenders. Our desire is that no one in our church family will EVER leave a worship service feeling that they have no one willing to pray for them. It is our hope that we can uplift and unburden any need by surrendering it over to our Omnipotent and loving Father. These needs will also be kept confidential. Your request will continue to be uplifted during the week by your Prayer Team member. Finally, since God loves the praise of His people, we invite you to come over and let us join with you in offering praise to God for his answers.

If you would like to join the UPLIFT team, we would love to have you. We are currently looking for a few people who would be available for 5-10 minutes after the worship service, on a rotating schedule, to staff the Prayer and Praise Connection area. Please contact Amy Kasternakis ([akas12@verizon.net](mailto:akas12@verizon.net)) or 609 516-1753, or Ron Bystrom ([ron.bystrom@cru.com](mailto:ron.bystrom@cru.com) or 609-649-3920).

**Philippians 4:6-7** *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

## Work Day



Please join us on Saturday, April 13, from 9:00 am to noon, for some healthy exercise as we spruce up our facilities in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt which will be held at 3:00 pm the next day. We'll be weeding, trimming and raking outside. Bring wheelbarrows, gloves and gardening tools if you can. Coffee and donuts will be provided!

## Easter Egg Hunt

Invite your family and friends and neighbors to the Chapel's Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held at 3:00 pm on Sunday, April 14. Free face painting, balloon animals, crafts and more will be offered in addition to the Egg Hunt for children ages 2 - 9. Please pray for Christ to be glorified as this event is used to invite folks to our Easter Sunday Service and other activities and inform parents about our children's program. The rain date is Saturday, April 20, at 3:00 pm.



## Perisseia

All women are invited to join our women's growth group as we begin a six-week spring series on Thursday, April 25. We will continue to talk about Godliness in the world and how we live lives of faith as we meet our commitments at work and as citizens of the United States and the world.

Meetings will be Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30, in the Chapel House. No commitment or preparation is required. For more information, please contact Cindy Bills ([cbills@verizon.net](mailto:cbills@verizon.net); 609-275-8557).

## JAM Mission Trip

Please pray for our Junior High teens who will be participating in JAM (Junior High Adventures in Ministry), May 31 - June 2, at Cairn University and will be equipped to serve Christ through this "hands-on" ministry experience.

## Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services



Reflect on Jesus' cross and celebrate His resurrection this Easter season with your family and friends:

### *Palm Sunday*

*(April 14, 9:30 am)*

The children will lead us in a procession of praise during our worship service on Palm Sunday.

### *Good Friday Service*

*(April 19, 7:00 pm)*

Our Good Friday service will feature reflective music, congregational singing and Scripture readings which will focus our hearts and minds on the Cross.

### *Easter Sunday Worship*

*(April 21, 9:30 am)*

Don't miss this special service of celebration, combining special music and biblical reflection, on our only true foundation – Christ's resurrection! Invite your friends and family to experience the hope of our life in Christ.



Welcome new member Lise Hill, a long-time regular attender. Her husband George has been a member for many years. If you are interested in becoming a member, please see Pastor Andy or one of the elders.

## Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in  
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

### The Lion of Judah and Lamb of God

The Bible is full of rich metaphors, word-parables so to speak. One of my favorites is Christ depicted as the Lion of Judah. We get our first hint of the connection at the end of Genesis when Jacob-now-Israel blesses his twelve sons before he dies. These sons represent the twelve tribes of Israel, and none is more significant than the tribe of Judah. In Genesis 49:9-10 we read:

*Judah is a lion's whelp;  
From the prey, my son, you have gone up.  
He couches, he lies down as a lion,  
And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?  
The scepter shall not depart from Judah,  
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,  
Until Shiloh comes,  
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*

Numbers 24:9 records the prophet Balaam repeating part of Jacob's prophecy, and it is generally recognized as an early proclamation of the coming Messiah, Christ. The expanded and fulfilled prophecy is proclaimed in Revelation 5:5:

*...and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."*

But Christ is not always depicted as a lion, as a fierce ruler. The prophet Isaiah describes the Messiah to be like a lamb that is led to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7). This imagery is potent and powerful. When the Lord used Moses to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt, He gave instructions for each household (or group of households) to sacrifice a lamb—the Passover Lamb—and paint their door lintels with its blood in order to escape the imminent judgment that was coming upon Egypt. The sacrifice of lambs for sin was an integral part of the Old Testament Law.

When John the Baptist proclaimed to two of his disciples that Jesus was the Lamb of God, there were a few dots to connect. Many and probably most Jews anticipating the coming of the Messiah were looking for a king, for the Lion of Judah. And here was a lamb, blameless to be sure, but not even particularly attractive. The concept of the Christ suffering and dying was abhorrent to the Apostle Peter (Matthew 16: 21-23), and we can be sure Peter was not alone in his perspective.

And so we come to the point of Easter. Jesus was not sometimes the lion and sometimes the lamb. He was not merely both the lion and the lamb. He is the Lion who *became* the Lamb. He died for us that we might rule with Him. Again, Revelation gives us a glimpse of what this will look like:

*And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. 7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they \*sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."*

Evangelical Christians often claim Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is the Lion-Lamb who we celebrate at Easter. May we appreciate both elements of His character and celebrate with joy and gratitude.

**Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557 or [clbills@verizon.net](mailto:clbills@verizon.net)) to continue the dialogue....**

### Financial Update

(Through February 2019)

*"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..."*

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$52,900	\$47,500
Expense	\$40,280	\$47,500

Windsor Chapel has sent \$6,548 to our missionary partners this year. That's 12% of your giving!

## What Jesus' Suffering Reveals

By Janet Berrill

When I was walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain last June, the path took us through many towns and often by the village church. Most of these churches are very old and have a rich history, so we would stop in and look around. Invariably there would be at least one crucifix with Jesus hanging on it, usually at the front. Sometimes, depending on the size of the church, there would be more throughout the church building. In addition to seeing these old churches, we sometimes went to church museums that had lots of old church art – mostly paintings and statues. By far the crucifixion of Jesus was what was depicted the most - His body hanging on the cross, a crown of thorns on His head.

After seeing this over and over again, I got to the point where I did not want to see it anymore. I think at first I distanced myself emotionally. This was Catholic art. I know they show Jesus on the cross, whereas the churches I have always attended display an empty cross because Jesus is not there anymore; He is not dead but alive. So when I first encountered the numerous paintings and statues I looked at them and moved on. But after seeing Jesus on the cross literally hundreds of times it got to me. This was Jesus, my Savior, suffering, and I did not want to face what He went through.

In my head I know that the Romans used crucifixion to execute those condemned to death, because it was the most painful way they knew of to execute a person. But I do not dwell on it. I prefer to think of Easter morning when He rose from the dead victorious. But I came face to face with Jesus' suffering over and over again as I visited the churches in Spain.

For those of you who do not know, I run the video system at the church which projects the words on the wall while we sing worship songs. I can change the background of the songs and sometimes when we sing a song about Jesus dying for us I will use a background of Jesus on the cross. I have several to choose from, some of which I have never used, namely ones showing blood flowing down Jesus face or ones I think are too gory to be shown. Once again I am sticking my head in the sand when it comes to facing how Jesus suffered for our benefit on the cross.

The truth is that Jesus suffered great physical pain before and while He was crucified. He was beaten, whipped, had a crown of thorns placed on His head and then was nailed to a cross where He slowly was asphyxiated. This is difficult for me to write; I do not like coming face to face with the reality of Jesus' suffering. I tend to think of His physical pain because I have some understanding of what it is like to be in pain, but the greatest suffering Jesus faced as He hung on the cross was the separation from His father.

But by facing the reality of Jesus' suffering I have a greater understanding of His love. Galatians 5:2 says, "*Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*" Jesus went through what He did because He loves us so much that the suffering was worth it to bring us into a right relationship with God. The great suffering Jesus endured reveals the even greater depth of His love for us. So while it is unpleasant to think about what Jesus went through, without doing so we miss the greatness of His love.

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**If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:**

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