

Daily Devotion For March 5, 2023

“Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:24

Yesterday, the Monterey chapter of the JAACL sponsored a “Be The Match” drive to register people for the likelihood of being a bone marrow match. Years ago when I pastored churches in Hollywood and Orange County, our churches sponsored a drive through “Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches”, (A3M) which originated through two of El Estero’s former members, Sharon Ninomiya Sugiyama and her sister Cathy Ninomiya. The Ninomiya family is a long time El Estero family and Setsuko Yamanishi and Yae Ninomiya were sisters. In the early 1980’s their nephew was diagnosed with Leukemia and was in need of a bone marrow match. They started A3M to develop a pool of potential donors.

When I was at Wintersburg, one of our church members, Hiro Uchida was the perfect match for a young man in need of a bone marrow transplant and Hiro was able to save this young man’s life. Interesting, years later, when the young man’s mouth, cheeks, and tongue was swabbed it showed the donor’s DNA.

Hiro’s experience bears a striking resemblance to what happens in the life of a person who receives salvation in Jesus. At the point of our spiritual transformation—when we trust in Jesus—we become a new creation ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus encouraged them to reveal that inward transformation, to “put off their old self” with its way of living and to “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”

Thought For Today: We don’t need DNA swabs or blood tests to show that the transforming power of Jesus is alive within us. That inward reality should be evident in the way we engage with the world around us, revealing how we’re “kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave [us]” (v. 32).

Today’s Prayer Focus: Praise God for the new life we have in Christ. Continued prayers for those in need of God’s comfort and healing touch. Deo Volente.