

DAYSRING DAYBOOK

Monthly Newsletter of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40 Ave, Edmonton, AB, CAN, T6J

May 2018

A Patchwork Quilt

If our family were represented by a patchwork quilt, there would be many different patches representing many different cultures. Some would be obvious, others a bit more obscure, but all of them meaningful and holding its rightful place on the Kim/Shipman family quilt.

I was born in Edmonton, Canada to immigrant parents. In 1973, my parents moved halfway around the world from Seoul, South Korea just one month after getting married. My mother, a Registered Nurse went to work in Camrose, Alberta while my father left for Berlin, Germany to finish his studies in engineering. My mother and her sisters (who also immigrated around the same time) were 'adopted' by a wonderful Ukrainian couple who have forever influenced the way we celebrate our holiday meals. Growing up, I thought it was completely normal to celebrate the holidays with turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, cabbage rolls, kielbasa, perogies, kimchi and rice!

Todd has also had an immigrant experience but very different from my own. He was born in Okinawa, Japan to a U.S. military father and a German mother and spent the first several years of his life living overseas in Thailand, Laos and Germany before settling in the Washington, D.C. area. He recounts tales of Thai people surrounding him in the marketplace so they could touch his white blond hair. His mother often surprises servers in Thai restaurants by ordering in fluent Thai!

Todd and I met while we were both graduate students studying at the University of Arizona in Tucson. The desert southwest is steeped in Hispanic culture and influences from Mexico, which is only one hour away. One of our favourite events in Tucson was the Dia de Muertos (All Soul's) Procession that would take place every fall. Recently we watched the movie "Coco" and it made us both nostalgic for the time we spent in the southwest. Hannah was born in Tucson and attended a Jewish daycare – with a name like 'Hannah Shipman' people assumed we were Jewish and Todd was asked on more than one occasion to light the candles during Shabbat services.

As a family, we are blessed to be able to draw from the many customs of the cultural groups we have experienced thus far. These cultures may make up the *patches* on our family quilt, but the *thread* that weaves its way throughout is our faith and the influence of Christ in our lives. Both of our families of origin have been the recipients of kindness from others in various communities. We too have received many blessings from others in ways that can only be attributed to the grace of God. As our kids grow up biracial, the 'patches' on their family quilts may become ever more diverse. However, it is our hope and prayer that we will raise our kids to continue the thread to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with [their] God."

- Esther Kim



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.

- Jane Howard

In This Issue

- A Patchwork Quilt
- The Malayang Family
- Grandparents Grosskopf
- Church is a Family You Belong To

The Malayang Family Comes to Canada

The decision to move to Canada was made while all 5 of us were relaxing in bed on a lazy Sunday afternoon in 2000. For some reason the talk went from “what’s happening in school?” to “how about moving to Canada?”. Let’s do it! End of discussion.

Maybe we were only thinking about seeing snow and singing Christmas carols dressed up in winter clothes like we see in TV or the movies. Yes, the only snow we had were soap suds or styrofoam cuttings adorning our Christmas trees. Also, we would be in short pants and sleeveless shirts – and that’s not really realistic, isn’t it?

Maybe it was just our naiveté, but little did we know that moving from the Philippines to Canada was more than just experiencing 4 seasons. In a very typical Filipino manner, we left everything else to God: “ang Ginoo ra ang bahala pag abot sa Canada” (God will take care of us when we get to Canada). We did not even know any other city in Canada except for Toronto and Vancouver. Yet through blind faith, we made the decision.

This is the same faith that got us through the 12 years we’ve been here. Since arriving in 2006, we have come to realize the real effect(s) of that fateful decision we made in 2000. Although growing up in the Philippines, which is a country that has been subjected to western culture through both Spanish (1521-1898) and American (1898-1946) colonialization, gave us an advantage as far as anticipating cultural changes, one can never really experience the shock of change until after arriving.

Anticipating all this, our first mission was to find a church. We found one close to our apartment. Every Sunday was a day to recharge our spiritual batteries and seek His guidance, especially during those times where we found ourselves in unfamiliar territory. Our biggest challenge was seeking a way to transition on how we as parents guide our teenagers as they themselves cope with new schools, friends and social norms. Filipino culture is very conservative when it comes to family. Children stay with their parents until after they get a degree and start their own families. Sometimes, they may even continue living with them after they have kids. It is not uncommon to have 3 generations in a single household. We had to prepare ourselves, emotionally and spiritually, when the time comes and one of them will say, “I’m 18 and I want to move out”. Although that didn’t happen, it was with prayers that got us through that phase.

One thing our family learned is that God will never abandon us in whatever we do. Our faith will get us through difficult times, and walking a narrow and rugged path with Him will always lead us to the light at the end of the tunnel.

- Sam Malayang

Editor’s Note: Sam and Ann May’s family is joined at Dayspring Presbyterian Church by the Hamoy, Moncada, and Cabural families. They are all first degree cousins from the Philippines.



FROM HEINRICH AND CARINA:

Becoming first-time grandparents

What a “grand” occasion it is to become grandparents! We are happy to share this experience.

First Carina: When our son got married I never thought of becoming a grandma so soon. Grandparenting would be something in the near future. I was first surprised when he phoned us to announce that a little baby was on its way. I was overwhelmed and thoughts such as I am not ready to be a grandma went through my mind. Then all of a sudden I started keeping track of the days, went on shopping sprees for this precious bundle. Our son and daughter-in-law did as well.

I wanted to know the gender of the baby and when our Lahna arrived (after a difficult time of being in labour for her Momma) we were beyond ourselves. There’s no describing the feeling of that first FaceTime meeting with her when she was only a few hours old. After a few days we were off to Winnipeg to meet her. Our world changed forever. Our daughter-in-law had her in her arms - asked if I wanted to hold her - I opened my arms and heart as wide as they had ever been. This was an entirely different feeling than holding my own son when he was born - no pain for me in this delivery, only pleasure, pride and love.

I looked at my son - the little boy has become a father (in the blink of an eye) and lots of emotions went through me.

We used every minute of the only three days we were in Winnipeg to bond with Lahna, changing clothes and nappies and lots of cuddles.

When our son got married it was all about his wife and her family (who only live ten minutes from them). Suddenly I am back in my son’s life. He is now texting me and asking advice on how to take care of our precious granddaughter.

We live 1300 km apart but thanks to technology we can connect every day. Our little Lahna is the most precious gift we received from God and we are looking forward to spend as much time as possible with her.

And now Heinrich: So much of what Carina said, apply to me as well. I’ll add a few words.

When I first heard that I’m to become a grandfather, the tears flowed freely down my cheek. They still flow every so often, believe it or not.

My biggest take-away is that I get to be part of the larger circle of life. The precious bundle that came into my life filled me with so much awe. Suddenly every baby’s life has become so much more significant. It is an amazing experience. Praise be to God!

- Carina and Heinrich Grosskopf



“Church is not an event you go to, it’s a family you belong to”
- Rick Warren

Ken and I both grew up attending church on Sundays, being part of a community of faith. We can both recall memories of Sunday school, church picnics, and Christmas pageants.

When Noah and then Leah were born, we wanted the same for them. In Dayspring, we have found that community where Noah and Leah can grow in their faith.

But beyond that, our family has found friendship, love, and an extended family. A family that will be part of Noah and Leah’s spiritual upbringing but who are part of other important milestones in their lives. A family that has celebrated birthdays, cheered as Noah’s hit the ball and made it to first base, and encouraged our children’s love for McDonalds.

As the quote says, church is greater than an event on Sunday mornings and we are grateful for the family we have found in Dayspring.

- *Laura Patterson-Fortin*



Contact Us

Dayspring Presbyterian Church
11445-40 Ave
Edmonton, AB, CAN, T5J0R4
Admin@DayspringChurch.ca
780-435-3111
Visit us on the web at
www.DayspringChurch.ca

DayBook Editors
Marilyn & John Carr
DayBook@DayspringChurch.ca

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SESSION

Moderator: Heinrich Grosskopf

Session Clerk: Darlene Eerkes

Deputy Clerk: Iris Routledge

Roll Clerk: Jim Jeatt

Other Elders

Bill Davis	Walters Munde
Jane de Caen	Nick Nation
John Carr	Stanley Ngwa
Ingrid Dukhedín-Lalla	Laura Patterson-Fortin
Peter Eerkes	Todd Shipman
Carina Grosskopf	Darleen Springstein
Sam Jaikaran	Heather Tansem
Gina Kottke	

MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

CHURCH STAFF

Church School Coordinator: Lynn Vaughan

Youth Coordinator: Shane Johnson

Worship Arts Coordinator
Gordon McCrostie, B.Mus., M.T.S.

Pianist: Binaifer (Binu) Kapadia, B.Mus.

Alternate Pianist
Darolyn McCrostie, B.Mus., P.D.A.D.
(Education)

Administrative Assistant: Linda
Custodians: Lindsey & Jim Matthew