

TrailNotes speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the “landscape” we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. **TrailNotes** is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we’re learning and doing.

ElderTalk: We Are a Picture of God for the World to See JADAÉ FOX

We are told in the Bible that God would walk daily with Adam and Eve in the Garden. To be present physically with God—Wow! But when Adam and Eve chose to sin, that all changed. They were sent out of the Garden. Now life would be hard...to get food...give birth...be a parent...be in a relationship with God. There is now pain, sickness, and death.

Yet, we do not stop being made in the image of God. What does that mean? Consider this:

“WE ARE A PICTURE OF GOD FOR THE WORLD TO SEE”

Let’s look at the children of Israel. God said that they were His special, chosen people. He gave them dietary, ceremonial, and moral laws to live by. He gave the feasts that were a foreshadowing, a picture of Jesus who was to come as their Messiah (Savior). They failed, as a whole, to understand that the purpose of this was to help them be a better reflection of who God is for the rest of the world to see. Unlike the false gods of the people who lived around the Israelites, God’s people were not to have idols. He never told them what *He* looked like but rather, what *they* should look like.

God’s ongoing plan was to reveal Himself to the world through His people living lives that put Him on display. But no matter how hard the people of Israel tried, they could not keep God’s laws. In fact, we are told that the law’s ultimate purpose was to show us that we could not fulfill this ourselves. (Gal. 3:24-27) However, when we trust in the work of Jesus on the cross, all of that changes. You see, Jesus can now live in us and through us. This allows you and me to have our status as a picture of God be restored for the world to see. (Gal.2:20 and Rom. 5:12)

Yet, we still battle against our sinful natures and must learn “to put off your old self which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in the true righteousness and holiness.” (Eph. 4:22-24)

We as God’s people best display this picture (His image) when we strive to be like Him, when we walk in the Spirit and show “love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Gal. 5:22-23) Are any of us a perfect picture of Jesus? No, of course not. But it is encouraging that Jesus would die to set us free from the penalty of sin: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1John 1:9)

The image of God is under attack like never before. God made humanity to reflect His image as male and female. There are only two sexes.

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Susan Renée Judd (1959-2023) at home with the Lord



Susan Renée (Huffman) Judd, age 63 of Lexington, passed away on March 14, 2023, after a long and valiant fight with complications from cancer at University Hospitals Samaritan Medical Center ER in Ashland, Ohio. Her husband was at her side as he had been throughout her illness.

Susan was born to David and Jackie (Lees) Huffman on April 25, 1959, in McKeesport, PA, and was a graduate of Ligonier Valley Senior High School. She graduated from Muskingum College and taught school for many years before switching careers and becoming the director of Oasis Peer Recovery Center. She married Brian Judd in 1988, and together they built a family that she deeply loved.

“To live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21) are words that Susan lived by. Nothing was more important to her than her faith in Jesus. She put her trust in Him at the age of 12, and lived her life with unwavering faith and joy.

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Enchou-Sensei Kosuki Maki (1933-2023): Man of Many Talents

REBEKAH STEFANIUK



Mr. Kosuke Maki was born on March 7, 1933, in Tokyo, Japan. He died February 19, 2023, in Tamura, Japan after an illness. He leaves behind his wife, Tomoko, and many beloved friends. He was the principal at the Wakakusa Gakuen and also the pastor of the Funehiki Evangelical Church,

He inspired many and had an incredible legacy. He lost his father, a prominent judge, when he was only 2. Taught by his mother, he also chose to become a Christian. His mother, Takiko Tatetsuji, started a church and a kindergarten in a rural town in Tukumashi Prefecture, Funehiki, in 1956. She wanted to show the love of Christ through offering what she believed to be the most helpful: education as well as the gospel of Jesus.

Mr. Maki attended high school in Minnesota after the war as an exchange student. He then returned to Japan. In 1961, Mr. Maki met Ray Nethery while working together with World Vision for a rigorous four months, holding gospel meetings—with orchestra and singing as well as gospel presentations. They filled Meiji stadium with 15,000 people nightly. Mr. Nethery is very tall in stature, while Mr. Maki is not, and so they were nicknamed “Goliath” and “David.” The nicknames stuck!

After this, Mr. Maki became the first full-time director of Campus Crusade for Christ in Japan.

Two years later, Mr. Maki’s mother became ill, and he chose to leave his Tokyo life and move to Funehiki, Japan, to take over his mother’s work. Shortly after, his mother died. Mr. Maki married Tomoko. Mr. Maki became the principal of the kindergarten as well as

the pastor for Funehiki Evangelical Church. Ray Nethery had also become a pastor at Grace Fellowship Church, and the two remained friends. Mr. Maki then opened an additional school which offered English and math classes for students after their school day. In the late 1970s, he flew Ray and his wife, Eunice, to Japan for a wonderful visit. At the end of the visit, Mr. Maki proposed an idea: would Ray Nethery help him find an American Christian who would come and live in Japan for a year and teach conversational English? Mr. Maki’s desire was not just for educating academically, but also offering a broader purpose. Mr. Nethery agreed, and in 1982 Karin Kurtz was the first English teacher at Wakakusa Gakuen.

The Growth of the Program

Meanwhile, Mr. Maki’s kindergarten was growing. He needed a new building. His educational philosophy was that people’s views and feelings on education began when they first entered “school.” So his kindergarten was a nurturing place where children felt loved and encouraged to blossom. His mother had said, “Children learn to be loved and to love. This love is given from the heart.” He wanted this reflected also in how his kindergarten building was built. The building was all wood; there are windows everywhere, and each classroom is named for a flower. His educational ideas were so respected that he even traveled with the UN as an educational ambassador, helping impoverished countries to build their educational systems.

He and Ray Nethery continued to share their cultures as each year a group of American students would go to Japan and the next year a group of Japanese students would travel to Mansfield, Ohio. Mr. Maki also became an active member of Rotary International and was a District Governor in Japan for years.

His English school grew to require four native English-speaking teachers. In 1998, the Funehiki Board of Education approached Mr. Maki to have conversations with Ann Brown of Mansfield, Ohio, about the possibility of beginning an official sister city relationship. With urban growth came a new name, Tamura City. In 2001, a delegation of people from Mansfield flew to Japan for an official tour and the signing of a sister city partnership.

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Enchou-Sensei Maki...(cont. from page 2)

From there, every October, students and officials from Tamura visited the United States and stayed in Mansfield for a few days. These trips were life-changing for the students as well as for the people of Mansfield who were involved.

Mr. Maki's teachers have now grown to 11. Eight of them now teach in public junior high schools, and 3 of them teach in his after-school program. They also teach in elementary schools and in Mr. Maki's kindergarten. His kindergarten has now grown to offer day care for infants and children not yet kindergarten age. He has more than 500 students.

The heart and vision of Mr. Kosuke Maki will be greatly missed. I hope those of us inspired by him will do well to take his example of loving others, being joyful and offering hope. In 2009, Mr. Maki said in a Rotary speech, "When you reach a certain age, there are people who say, 'I don't have anything in particular to learn.' I feel sad when I hear this. There are always things to learn."

A Memorial Service was held at Grace Fellowship Church, 365 Straub Rd. E., Mansfield, OH, on March 11 at 4 pm. Many of the teachers from former years were in attendance as shown in the photo below.



GFC dance team at worship on March 5, 2023.

April 2023

- 2 PALM SUNDAY:** Elder Jerry Mathias preaching. "Decluttering by Faith," 3:00-4:30, Upper Room. Also **16, and 23.**
- 4, 11, 18** Prayer for revival, at the Frankenfields, 1705 Woodville Rd. 7:00-8:00 pm.
- 5 CONNECT** groups every Wed. for all ages.
- 7 GAME CLUB** every Friday at Madison Middle School.
- 9 RESURRECTION SUNDAY:** Pastor Eric Byrom preaching. 🍷🍴
- 15 KINGDOM MEN'S** prayer breakfast, 9:00 am.
- 16** Pastor Eric Byrom preaching: I Timothy 5:1-16. Kids DTS leaders' meeting, 12:45 pm, lobby.
- 22 WOMEN OF GRACE:** Praise Moves, 10:30-noon.
- 23** Pastor Eric Byrom preaching: I Timothy 5:17-25. 🍷🍴
- 30 CELEBRATION WORSHIP** with potluck following at 11:30 am.

CHURCH HISTORY



"Easter" in the earliest

Christian writings

was actually the Christian celebration of Passover (Pascha). Sadly, the term "Easter" has pagan origins and wasn't used until the 1600s. Here is what Melito, the Bishop of Sardis, wrote for Pascha in about 170 AD:

"I am the Christ. I am the one who destroyed death, and triumphed over the enemy, and trampled Hades under foot, and bound the strong one, and carried off man to the heights of heaven, I am the Christ. Therefore, come, all families of men, you who have been befouled with sins, and receive forgiveness for your sins. I am your forgiveness, I am the passover of your salvation, I am the lamb which was sacrificed for you, I am your ransom, I am your light, I am your saviour, I am your resurrection, I am your king, I am leading you up to the heights of heaven, I will show you the eternal Father, I will raise you up by my right hand."

Susan Renée Judd *(cont. from p. 1)*

She was preceded in death by her father, David Huffman. She is survived by her husband, Brian, and their children, Rebekah, Jon, and Heidi; her mother, Jackie; her siblings, David (Lily), Gail (Kevin), and Glenn (Jill); and her Aunt Geraldine (Gene), and Aunt Bev.

The family received friends on Friday, March 24, 2023, from 4:00-7:00 pm at Snyder Funeral Home, Lexington Avenue Chapel, 2553 Lexington Ave. Mansfield. The funeral service was held at 10 am Saturday, March 25, 2023, at Grace Fellowship Church, 365 Straub Rd. East, Mansfield, with Pastor Eric Byrom officiating.

Memorial donations are suggested to benefit Susan's family (checks payable to Brian Judd). These can be given through the church or funeral home.



We are a Picture of God *(cont. from p. 1)*

Our culture's obsession not only causes confusion but calls God and His Word a liar. Standing up for the truth in love is part of what it means to be a clear picture of God for the world to see. (2 Cor. 3:18)



Grace Fellowship Church—through the eyes and ears of a visitor

PAUL LINTERN

On March 13, GFC hosted the Mansfield March of Prayer. Here are the delightful comments of the organizer, Paul Lintern, which he emailed to the church the next day:

"I often describe Grace Fellowship as an alpine-looking building, nestled in the mountains that aren't there. Last night's snow gave it even more of that look. They are located very close to Rt. 13 on Straub Rd., but you don't see either road when you get there; it is its own village: a camp, a baptismal lake, a multi-purpose venue that has served other churches over the decades in unique ways.

"The songs are always contemporary but from a variety of times—*vintage contemporary*, perhaps. At one point, we sang three songs: 'Gratitude' is fresh on the top of the play-it-over-and-over on the Christian radio list. The next one I sang as a camper worshipping in the 70's, and the third is a standard that was fresh when it arrived in the early part of this century and remains fresh because it always touches us anew.



"And the band is worshipful in a light rock sort of way. Please, this is not a music critic writing. This is an enthused fan of worship of all sorts, and I want to impress how uniquely blessed each worship service is, because of Who it addresses.

"The fact is, music can be timeless. We also sang a version of 'Amazing Grace,' which was written exactly 250 years ago. Timeless.



"In between songs, we gathered in small groups to pray, guided by Pastor Eric and the elders who addressed specific topics. And we drove home in a lightly falling snow... The Jericho Wall moves forward.

"Blessings to you. Enjoy the journey! Love, Paul"

Grace Fellowship Church

365 Straub Rd East • Mansfield Oh 44903
419-526-4699 • gracefellowship01@gmail.com



Eric Byrom	Presiding Elder/ Pastor
Jadaé Fox	Elder
Matt Godsil	Elder
Jerry Mathias	Elder
Cameron Karger	Treasurer
Kay Berry & Karen Gates	Women
Lori Barker	Missions
Andy Heininger	Worship
Judy Nichols	Prayer Chain
Kay Berry & Jadaé Fox	Office
Andy Anschutz	Sound/Power Point
John and Donna Kurtz	TrailNotes