

# *The Master's Message*

## *The Newsletter of the Church of the Master*

### *June, 2025*

*Virtual Adult Bible Study*

*Wednesday, 7:00 PM*

*Saturday, 12:00*

*2783 Lafayette Avenue*

*Bronx, N.Y. 10465*

*718-597-6298*

*Sunday Worship*

*Sunday 11:00 am*

*[cotm47@verizon.net](mailto:cotm47@verizon.net)*

*[WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG](http://WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG)*

*Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor*

**K**ATE HANKEY, the daughter of a prosperous British banker, grew up in a stylish London suburb. She started a Bible class for girls in her neighborhood, and then, when she was only eighteen, Hankey went to London to teach a Bible class of "factory girls." In her twenties, she started other Bible classes for factory girls.

When she was in her early thirties, Kate Hankey became seriously ill. Doctors said she needed a year of bed rest. She was forbidden to teach her Bible classes for twelve months. During her long, slow recovery, she wrote two lengthy poems. The first, at the beginning of her convalescence, later became the hymn "Tell Me the Old, Old Story." The second, written ten months later, became "I Love to Tell the Story."

After ten months she felt strong enough to leave her bed. She soon returned to her Bible classes in London and continued teaching for many years. When she became too old to teach the factory girls regularly, she started a prison ministry in London—even then she continued to tell the story of Jesus.



*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will bear witness for me in Jerusalem, and throughout all Judaea and Samaria, and even in the farthest corners of the earth.*

*Acts 1:8, REB*

### *I Love to Tell the Story*

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;  
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true  
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do

*I love to tell the story!*

*'Twill be my theme in glory—*

*To tell the old, old story*

*Of Jesus and His love.*

I love to tell the story—'tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it, more  
wonderfully sweet;

I love to tell the story, for some have never  
heard

The message of salvation from God's own holy  
Word.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it  
best

Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like  
the rest;

And when in scenes of glory I sing the new,  
new song,

'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so  
long.

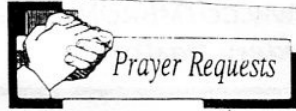
*Arabella Catherine Hankey (1834–1911)*



## \*SPECIAL DATES\*

- Pentecost, June 8<sup>th</sup>
- Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>
- Trinity Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>
- Father's Day, June 15<sup>th</sup>
- First day of summer, June 21<sup>st</sup>

## \*News From the Pews\*



Continue praying for:  
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,  
Loretta Byrd, John Bruno,  
Alice & Alex Rivera

Everyone is invited to join our virtual "**Hour of Prayer Power**" every Friday at 7:00 PM.  
The conference call-in number is 605-475-4860,  
code: 371231#

Our **Online Bible Study** meets  
Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00.  
Contact Ron Rivera (917-716-8273)  
for information on joining

## What matters most

When you are in the final days of your life, what will you want? Will you hug that college degree in the walnut frame? Will you ask to be carried to the garage so you can sit in your car? Will you find comfort in rereading your financial statement? Of course not. What will matter then will be people. If relationships will matter most then, shouldn't they matter most now?

—Max Lucado, *A Love Worth Giving*

## \*CHURCH CHUCKLES\*

One Sunday afternoon a drunk stumbles across a baptismal service down by the river. He proceeds to walk down into the water and stand next to the preacher. The minister turns and notices the old drunk and offers, "Mister, are you ready to find Jesus?"

The drunk looks back and says, "Yesh, Preacher, I sure am." The minister then dunks the fellow under the water and pulls him right back up. "Have you found Jesus?" the preacher asks. "Nooooo, I haven't," says the drunk. The preacher then dunks him under a bit longer this time, brings him up and says, "Now, brother, have you found Jesus?" "Noooooo, I have not, Reverend."

The preacher sighs and holds the man under a little bit longer this time, brings him out of the water and asks, "My God, man, have found Jesus yet?" The old drunk wipes his eyes and says to the preacher, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

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The late Reverend Billy Graham told of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "Why don't you come to the Baptist Church on Third Street this evening? I'll be preaching about how to get to heaven."

The boy replied, "Thank you anyway, sir, but I don't think I'll be there. You don't even know your way to the post office."

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THROUGH DEVELOPING AN ATTITUDE  
OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD OTHERS,  
WE CAN BEGIN TO CREATE THE  
KINDER, MORE COMPASSIONATE  
WORLD WE ALL DREAM OF.

— HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA



Always pray.  
It's the most powerful tool against worry,  
doubt and fear.

## Pentecost power

Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit descended onto Jesus' disciples. While they were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost, the disciples saw flames among and on them, heard a rushing wind and began talking in many languages. As a result, the disciples were able to share the good news of Jesus in the native tongues of all the pilgrims assembled in the city.

Even today, the power of the Holy Spirit fuels the "flame" that ignites Christians' outreach efforts. Only by the Spirit's power can we know Christ and make him known throughout the world.

Poet William Blake (1757-1827), who's been described as a passionate, Pentecost kind of person, wrote this poem about the Spirit's power:

Unless the eye catch fire,  
The God will not be seen.  
Unless the ear catch fire,  
The God will not be heard.  
Unless the tongue catch fire,  
The God will not be named.  
Unless the heart catch fire,  
The God will not be loved.  
Unless the mind catch fire,  
The God will not be known.

## Fatherly reflection

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life." If you're blessed with a dad you admire and respect, how would it affect your life to make such a decision? Would you be inspired to set sound priorities, live with integrity, be a positive role model to the young people you influence? For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may our prayer and intent be:

God, while earthly fathers are a mix of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and passionate about our best interests. May we, in turn, seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread far and wide your love, kindness and passion for the best interests of all, and may others see you in me. Amen.

**Special**  
M • E • S • S • A • G • E

In our newsletters, we are sharing our financial reports with our readers so everyone is aware of our situation. The financial reports for March and April are as follows:

March: - +\$5,460.33

April: - \$4,133.57

March's positive balance was due to a very generous donation of \$5,000 in memory of Ellen McCullough as well as a number of other individual donations. April's negative balance is partially due to our quarterly insurance payment.

We're trying to cut corners as much as possible but we need the help of our members, former members and friends. As a member, if you miss a week or two, please put your weekly offering in your envelope for that week and then bring those envelopes with you the next time you come to church. You may not be here for those weeks, but our expenses don't skip a week.

Again, we thank our generous former members and friends who send us a donation, whether it's on a regular basis, occasionally during the year or during the holiday season. We really appreciate the donations, as well as hearing from you.



- "When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry."

—William Shakespeare

## Carve your name on hearts

A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when the forget-me-nots are withered. Carve your name on hearts, and not on marble.

—Charles H. Spurgeon





June 2025 Newsletter\*

As I reflect upon the current state of our politics and social discourse, I had an opportunity to read the below article in the Spring 2021 edition of *Today's Pastor* titled "*Follow Jesus' Example: Ask Questions.*" The article resonated with me because it speaks so profoundly to our current conditions. Church of the Master received permission to reprint the article from the author and editor of *Today's Pastor*, Bro. Dan Brownell. I pray it will provide food for thought and food for your soul, as much as it certainly did for mine. Happy Father's Day and congratulations to all of our Graduates in the Class of 2025!

Shalom to you now,

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden

Pastor

Church of the Master

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\* Reprinted from our June 2021 Newsletter,

### **Following Jesus' Example: Ask Questions<sup>1</sup>**

The culture of rage has reached new heights. A significant part of our society is now aggressively attacking those who hold a biblical worldview. But we're called to the difficult challenge of being faithful to Jesus and His Word while defusing conflict when we can. Paul says in Romans, "*If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all*" (12:18 ESV).

So how can we face hostility without losing our cool? After all, it's human nature to react to an angry comment with a defensive answer. We need to be Spirit controlled, but there's also a practical strategy we can implement. We can follow Jesus' example of asking questions. We know He used this strategy effectively, but it's easy to forget to apply it because we're immersed in a culture that places little value in this approach. We're trained to give answers, not ask questions.

Questions work well because they can:

- Calm and disarm a person and redirect an attack into a conversation. "*A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger*" (Prov. 15:1 NIV).
- Get to the heart of a matter quickly.
- Reveal blind spots and make truth resonate.
- Reinforce the Holy Spirit's conviction by helping people recognize truth for themselves.



If we're criticized for our position on an issue, we could recite a list of reasons for our beliefs, but that will likely just elicit rebuttals and counter rebuttals. Or we could respond with a simple question: Whose thought on this topic matters most? Yours, mine, or God's? (Unless the person is an atheist, it would be hard to avoid the obvious answer that God's is most important.)

The next question follows naturally, "So what does God say about the issue?," which provides an opportunity to point out what Scripture says. Of course, there's a chance the person will reject the Bible as the Word of God, but at least then the discussion focuses on what God says rather than winning an argument.

Jesus understood human nature, and we would be wise to follow His lead in lowering walls by asking questions. Now more than ever, we need to be able to engage people civilly to communicate truth.

In Christ,

Dan Brownell, Editor

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Tia Blake**, daughter of Rev. Melva J. Hayden, who graduated with her B.S. magna cum laude on May 22, 2025, from St. Joseph University. Tia's major was Health Administration and her minor was Psychology. She has been a cardiology medical coder at Northwell for 12 years.

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### Points for honesty

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A Sunday school teacher was telling his class the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), in which Jesus describes three individuals' responses to a man found beaten and in grave need of help along the side of the road. Hoping to bring home the point of the parable, the teacher asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?"

A hushed silence followed, broken after a moment by a thoughtful little girl: "I think I'd throw up."

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### Hit the road

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When a teenager received his driving permit, he asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss use of the car.

His father said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut, and then we'll talk about it."

A month later, the young man returned to continue the discussion. "Son, I've been real proud of you," the father said. "You've brought your grades up and studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The teenager replied, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair and even Jesus had long hair...."

"Yes," the father said, "and they walked everywhere they went!"

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### Honor Your Father

Father's Day, \_\_\_\_\_

