



Jan. 2023 Heart2Heart Widows Connection

## “PRUNING”

Master Gardener Jon Schara, pictured with Heart2Heart member Linda Tadlock on left (holding a cordless saw), has been a good friend of Dave & me for more than 15 years. In the seven years I've been a widow, Jon has been a huge help in teaching me how to graft, plant, mulch and install efficient water emitters. So when Linda asked for help pruning her orchard, I turned to Jon. He started by staking up an enormous avocado tree, and then turned his attention to her orchard: a row of pear, peach, apricot, and apple trees. As we went from tree to tree, he would quiz us on the process from first cut to last, until we could recite it from memory: prune suckers, dead or diseased limbs, crossed limbs, and then ID fruit buds vs. vegetative buds. He oversaw the pruning but we made most of the cuts. It was a long, exhausting day but we had a great time and got her entire orchard pruned properly. She'll have sweeter, more abundant fruit this spring.

Pruning is painful. But every gardener knows pruning is necessary for the health of a plant. It's evidence of the Master Gardener's love and care for His creation. The pruning we experience from God's hands is always for our good and His glory. He knows exactly when and how much to prune. Roses, trees, shrubs all need regular pruning. And so do we. Have you experienced any “pruning” lately? **John 15:2** says, “**Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that continues to bear fruit, He prunes, so that it will bear more fruit.**” Pruning is vitally important for us to grow in our walk with God. We must trust that when the Lord “prunes” us, it's done with a purpose, and will result in more fruit. Just like trees need pruning to remove dead branches or areas of overgrowth, we need to be pruned or reshaped in different seasons, in different areas of our lives.

Ask God if you're dragging around dead branches in your life: a bad relationship, an old wound, a negative attitude, anything you look to for a sense of security other than the Lord Himself. Are you afraid to give up something that's familiar, for something new you can't see or understand? Let Him have His way in you; you'll experience more abundant fruit! **John 15:4** says, “**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.**” Spend alone time with Him to develop a personal, close, intimate relationship with the One who created you. Talk to God today and say, “**Not my will but Thy will be done.**” Prune me, Lord, so I can bear more fruit even in the most difficult seasons of my life.

**WE HAVE A PRAYER WARRIOR!**

**Call Heart2Heart member Cathy Olson for any and all requests: 714-329-7882**



## GET TO KNOW YOUR HEART2HEART SISTERS!

Head to the CCEA Café between services on Sundays!

Some Upcoming activities and Events: **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

**\*\*\*Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> Singles Soup & Chili Pot-Luck**

6:00-9:00 ALL singles over 40 invited for a fun, and yummy, event! See bulletin to sign up.

**CCEA Café**

Questions? **Cecelia Beverage 714-931-2754**

**\*\*\*Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> Heart2Heart 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday Monthly Lunch**

11:30-1:00 Special Valentine's theme

**Polly's Café, Yorba Linda** - Feel free to split an order, share a plate.

RSVP **Cynthia Stakley 310-962-7829**

**\*\*\*Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Winter Heart2Heart Birthday Brunch**

10:00-12:00 All Heart2Heart members with birthdays in **Jan, Feb or Mar!**

Look for your invitation in the mail! **Cindy's Home 13782 Gershon Pl, N Tustin**

RSVP **Cindy Snelling 714-401-1936**

**There are lots of ways to meet members of Heart2Heart!**

\*To find out about a dog walking group called **NOAH'S ARK** that meets once a month,

Call **Cecelia Beverage 714-931-2754** for dates and locations

\*Help plan a fun "Games" event, Call **Jeannette Gosnell 925-201-9623**

\*We're looking for members who would like to start a **Comfort Group** to reach out to a new widow, call, meet, and pray with her to ease the pain of a loss.

\*We need a few members to make follow-up calls for widows 1 month, 6 months, 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary after a loss (of a husband or family member).

\*We need a few members who would send cards for birthdays, illness, surgery aftercare, encouragement, thinking of you, just because, etc.

\*We have several wanting to start a **Book Club, Hiking Group, Bowling Group, Golf group**, help plan field trips to art galleries, museums, gardens, movie outings.

**Give us your ideas & suggestions!**

Call **Beth Ferrari 714-293-7720**

**WE WANT EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME WAY!**