

Summertime, and the living is easy!

July got here so quickly. I hope all of you had a wonderful time with friends and family as we all celebrated this nation that God has so richly blessed. The celebration in Washington was a beautiful tribute to our military.

Our July event was a glorious time of fun, laughter and fellowship for the ladies of Calvary Fellowship, Fountain Valley. This month, we enjoyed "Painting with Kim" or as one lady



called it, "Painting without the twist"! Anyone who knows me at all knows that I break out into a cold sweat when someone says crafting or art. It just isn't my wheelhouse. But Kim was so sweet and patient and shared her beautiful talent with us. We painted a lovely picture of Calvary at sunrise the morning after. So poignant. The ladies had a wonderful time and our resident artists from the very artistically blessed Bornschein Family did not disappoint! We also had several ringers in the group who did some amazing things.



The September Retreat is only 8 weeks away! Slots are limited and are filling up fast. July 28'th is the close of all registration and all money must be in by then, so please sign up before or after church in the foyer with Mandy or one of her team. No reservations can be taken after then, so please don't wait until the last minute ladies! The craft elves are starting on all the wonderful personalized gifts we will have for each of you. It's going to be just lovely and I hope you can join us!

August is only 2 weeks away! Where has the summer gone? Am I the only one who can't believe how quickly time seems to be passing? On that note, our T2W Event for August is in celebration of a milestone. T2W is officially 1 year old! Can you believe it? It seems like only yesterday I was sitting with my team trying to figure out what we were going to do for the coming year. So we're having a birthday party! So much has happened, and it has all been photographically captured, so we will have a slide show providing photos of all the fun we've had this year. There will be no bible study at this event, just food, fellowship and celebration. We will also have a survey for you to fill out. We want to know what worked, what didn't and what you'd like to see next year. If you can't come to the party, don't worry. I will have the survey available online so you can weigh in. Remember, if you don't vote, you don't get to complain! Watch the bulletin for more info on this. It will be a potluck and no cost, so bring something delicious to share, (who's bringing the deviled eggs?!) and join your sisters for a wonderful celebration of what God has done!

July is always a somber month for me. I bleed red, white and blue, and I love this country with everything inside me. I am not a natural citizen. At 18, I had to make a choice whether to become a citizen of this wonderful country, or remain true to my mother country, England. I chose America. From the very beginnings of this nation, in spite of what you may read or hear on the news, God was involved.

The Pilgrims came here seeking religious freedom. We fought the revolutionary war against a tyrannical government – my home country! As we grew, God was faithful and against insurmountable odds, we flourished with His blessings and help. In the 1800's, hundreds of thousands of young men bled and died to uphold the sovereignty of the states and to abolish slavery in this nation. Next came 2 World Wars, a depression and major upheaval in our beloved country and still, when the smoke cleared, we were standing strong with God as our great commander. I think of those who died and sacrificed for this nation. I think of those who took a stand when it wasn't popular and, in some cases, dangerous. I remember seeing soldiers who had been drafted come home to their country only to be spat upon and ridiculed by the people they fought for.

And now, I look at people burning our flag, fighting our law enforcement, hating our President and it grieves my heart. I've spent time in other countries. I've seen how they live. And I can tell you unequivocally, this nation, blessed by God, is the best nation on the planet.

My prayer for all of you this month is that you will take time to thank God for this country. Pray for our leaders – ALL OF THEM! Remember our military. We are an all-volunteer force now. They do this by choice – FOR YOU. Don't ever forget that and thank God for them. Pray for our military families. They also sacrifice by giving up their loved ones on a regular basis so we can be free. Paul said that he had LEARNED in whatever state he was, therewith to be content. God has you in America for a reason. Be grateful. Remember to thank Him every day.

Many of you have already had your vacations, but there is still so much to do in this beautiful place where God has us. Go out and enjoy it. Time is short and the kids will be back in school soon. Don't miss any opportunity. The cleaning will wait. Go out and enjoy the beautiful weather.

May our Lord and Savior bless and keep you. May He make His face to shine upon you. And be gracious unto you. May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. This month remember to walk in obedience and righteousness. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us!

IHS and yours,
Karen