

Spirit of Life Presbyterian will again be host to Matsiko World Orphan Choir

The Matsiko World Orphan Choir will perform at Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church at the 10 a.m. worship service Sunday, July 16. The church is located at 14401 Pilot Knob Road in Apple Valley. The Matsiko choir is currently made up of 27 of the poorest orphaned and at-risk children from Nepal, India, Liberia and Peru. Their ages range from 5 to 16. The children, with their 11 adult leaders and teachers, will stay in the homes of Spirit of Life families from July 13 to 18, as the choir will also perform at other venues in the Twin Cities area.

The choir is the flagship vehicle of the International Children's Network (ICN). According to Don Windham, ICN founder, "Orphaned and vulnerable children are auditioned annually and selected from a pool of hundreds before leaving their home nations to travel for the first time in their lives. These chosen few become part of a 1-year U.S. world orphan choir tour. They have a chance to break the cycle of poverty, taking better control of their futures."

Windham explained: "It is our intent and purpose that through this experience every child in Matsiko World Orphan Choir will positively change their lives, villages, nations and the world. The songs they sing and the hearts they touch change lives here in the United States and in their home countries through this shared experience that is so unique and motivating to all."

"Some of these kids had never experienced electricity or worn shoes," Windham continued. "They receive daily educational development during the tour, guaranteeing their advancement to the next level upon their return home."

The choir has sung at such noteworthy places as Disneyland and SeaWorld and has entertained crowds of thousands at the Los Angeles Clippers, Seattle Seahawks and even the Rose Bowl games.

Nicole Fischer, a member of Spirit of Life, commented, "We are fortunate to have the Matsiko choir return to our church to perform for the fourth time.

The church and some of our members have become sponsors of some of the children.”

For additional information on Matsiko’s visit to Spirit of Life, call the church office at 952-423-2212.