



By Kim Devore
Entertainment Editor

MALIBU SEEN



Photo courtesy DF Photography and LightWorkers Media

Longtime locals Roma Downey and Mark Burnett celebrate a rare moment of downtime at their Malibu home.

SON OF LOVE

I met “Touched by an Angel”’s Roma Downey years ago when I was covering her good works on behalf of Operation Smile, the organization that has helped transform the lives of millions around the world by giving children something to smile about.

Turns out, she was my neighbor and we became great friends. She and her husband, TV titan Mark Burnett, the Emmy-winning creator of “The Voice” and hits like “Survivor,” got married almost a decade ago, just about the same time my husband, Barry, and I tied the knot.

Her popular “Touched by an Angel” television show had a good, long run and touched many in the process.

A few years back, I remember meeting Roma at her breathtaking ocean view home for “a cuppa”(after all, everything in the Burnett-Downey household is done over a proper tea).

She told me about what seemed like a wildly ambitious idea: to do a series on the life of Jesus. Not only did it happen on the *History Channel*, but it pulled in record viewers in the process. She talked about the challenges of making the project engaging and relevant for a new generation, and they succeeded.

Roma even took on the role of playing Jesus’ mother, Mary. The life of Jesus was so successful that it was turned into a major motion picture, “Son of God,” which is now playing in theaters nationwide. After a grueling schedule of shooting, casting, writing and directing, where the series went, the film followed. Drawing record crowds during Oscar week says it all.

“We now know that many millions saw ‘Son of God’ this weekend and we are very encouraged by the overwhelming support for the film,” Roma said. “We poured our hearts and souls into this project.”

So what is it like working alongside your spouse? The talented couple said it actually brought them closer together. “This is a love story,” Roma explains. “It has been a deeply personal journey for us. The story of Jesus is our story. This is our faith.” Working with your husband or wife is no easy task, but they pulled it off brilliantly.

“To be able to do what we love to do, do what we believe in and to do it together, as a married couple, has been a blessing for us and great fun, too. We are best friends and we work well together.”

Roma acknowledges that both bring strengths to the table, but in different areas. “My husband is the hammer,” she said, “and I am the heart!” And the heart and hammer paid off. “After all the hard work over many years, it is gratifying to learn that millions showed up this weekend to experience ‘Son of God,’ to be moved by the story of Jesus on the big screen, and to be inspired by it.”

The message is resonating around the world and here at home. “While at church Sunday morning in Malibu, we met a man who shared that seeing ‘Son of God’ has helped inspire a new aliveness in him for the Gospels. What a blessing... we are delighted that our own community is coming out in big numbers to support the film.”

So what’s next? Hopefully, a little down time. “After so many months on the road, we are just loving being home together with our kids and our family.” God bless, Roma and Mark. You deserve it.



Photo by Arielle Chadwick

Local resident Chelsea Chadwick wins the “Queen of the Beach” volleyball tournament.

Crowning the queen

Malibu resident Chelsea Chadwick, 13, won the “Queen of the Beach” sand volleyball tournament at the Annenberg Beach Club Saturday, Feb. 15. She won eight matches and played with seven different partners. Chadwick played in the two-person semifinals and finals with fellow Malibu resident Alyssa Slagerman.

Chadwick plays for the Westside Warriors U14 indoor team. She is the team captain and starting outside hitter. She has been the captain and MVP of her middle school team for the past two seasons.

She entered the tournament as the No. 2-ranked player and is now ranked No. 1.

Mission to Mexico

Our Lady of Malibu School students collected items for an upcoming Mexico Mission. Items from the 10 trucks will be delivered to families in need living in “The City of New Hope,” a shantytown established on a dump in Tijuana.

Maureen Kronman, parent of OLM graduate Bennett Kronman, and Mrs. Angela Sall, religion teacher, spoke to classes about the mission. Several of the OLM staff members have seen firsthand the appreciation of families who have received the gifts.



Photo by Lisa Hall

Our Lady of Malibu School helps collect items to be given to families in need in Mexico.



Photo courtesy Michele Turturici

Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School students learn how to build model homes.

Learning to build

Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School students learned how to build model homes that are sustainable, energy efficient and earthquake safe. Teachers combined together several lessons, culminating in the final, home-building project.

Students first read “Twenty-One Balloons,” which helped inspire them to make houses with inventions of the future. Then, during computer lab, students studied architecture of homes from different areas of the world, helping them learn about geography and culture. Using Chromebooks, students next put together presentations on natural disasters, which they finally incorporated into their model home projects.

Art exposure

The Malibu Woman’s Club visited Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) to view the Japanese Price Collection. The docent for the tour was club member Aya Yoshida, who worked at LACMA as a curator for eight years and is now an independent curator.

Yoshida guided the group through the 18th century collection of brush paintings and screens.

The Malibu Woman’s Club visited Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Pictured from left: Marilyn Royden, Melinda Johnson, Victoria Epstein, Elenor Lawrence, Chris Briscoe, Joan Blackman, Wendy Seifried, Sally Zamarin, Zorica Denton, Charlotte Ward and Aya Yoshida



Photo courtesy Chris Briscoe

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