

West Oahu Christian Church
94-420 Farrington Highway
Waipahu, HI 96797



Pastor's Corner...

The Endless Summer Came to an End

I never thought I'd be looking forward to the fall season. As you know in the Fall things start picking up in churches - starting a new Sunday School year, gearing up for Halloween outreach events, Thanksgiving, and of course, Christmas. However, this year, as we began moving into September, I felt I could breathe a sigh of relief from this year's summer activities! (Although it would not be until the end of September that activities would settle down.)

Our youngest child Ruth graduated from Roosevelt High School. From then on it was planning parties, holding parties, making a slide show, transporting all kinds of equipment. (While it was fun, it also reminded me why I like parties in the garage) There were four funerals. And then there were the other grad parties, my ordination party, a friend's 50-year-old party. A couple of these parties began with me just being a guest. Then I was asked to help in some small way, then in some big way. Has that happened to you? The moral of the story is ... don't have friends. No! That's not it! Actually I was glad to help. However, I must confess that I was wondering when the "straw that breaks the camel's back" would come! Though the activity level led to other things being neglected, God was gracious, and I didn't fall apart. But the summer was not just busy ... it was also **special**. It was made of the kind of things that make life richer.

First, taking **Ruth to U-Mass Amherst** for school twice was a great experience. Spending a week with her on the East Coast getting her set up before saying "goodbye," created moments – happy and sad - that I will treasure forever.

Another event was the passing away of my **uncle on Maui**. Having lived alone since my grandmother's death in '94, he was what may be the last of my father's siblings. Sorting through photos and documents, which I had never seen before, caused me to ponder questions about my family I never knew to ask, but now may never know the answer to.

After being ordained on the mainland, the **Ordination Party** WOCC put on for me was a wonderful blessing. It was touching to see the love and support of my church family as well as many other brothers and sisters I've known and ministered with throughout the years. Their desire to express their affirmation of ordination was meaningful beyond words.

There was one **Memorial Service** that stood out. Here is what I wrote on my new Facebook "wall" ... "*Have to say, the past weekend was special...and beautiful. The services for Pam Arinaga were more like an experience than an activity. Perhaps this is what it means when God's word says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalm 116:15) May God's comfort be with Martin, Alex and Mary.*

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Pastor's Corner continued...



And now, I am back in school. I was worried that my schedule would at some point become unmanageable, but God has been graciously helping me be very disciplined and provided time for me to study and do well (so far). I am thankful for my family and church for being understanding, and I praise God that I have not had a problem keeping up with the normal priority demands of ministry (so far).

I notice that each of these activities represents a very significant transition point in life, times that cause us to pause and reflect, to look back and to look forward, appreciate and anticipate, expand our hearts with the substance of living. Psalm 90:12 says, *“Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”* As I look back to a summer that will never again replay itself, the lesson I learned is that no matter how busy we may be, if we are conscious of God’s presence and guidance, we can emerge on the other side with deep experiences that grow our souls.

I pray your summer was also memorable as our Lord paints on the canvas of your life.

With Gratitude,
Stan

Prayer Requests

Physical Health, Healing and Divine Support:

Tomi Doi - dialysis
 Melvin Ishikawa - dementia
 Bob Terukina - dementia due to stroke
 Mike Teruya – cancer
 Martin Arinaga - his beloved wife, Pam has gone home to be with the Lord on August 15. Pray also for their daughter Alex and Pam’s mom, Mary Suefuji.
 Martin’s mother, Hisako, was also called home to Jesus on September 28. Please pray for Martins father, Tom, and their family. Mary Suefuji also said goodbye to her brother, Walter Park, who passed away on August 29. May the Lord’s presence and comfort be with you all.
 Ruth Miyamoto - gone to Massachusetts for school. Please pray for adjustments and the self-discipline to do well.
 Rev. Nakamura - recovering at home from surgery to remove the colon

bypass apparatus. Please pray for his full recovery and that he will regain his strength. Please also pray that the cancer will not recur.

WOCC and OMS Conference Activities:

Church Leaders, deacons
 God’s will and guidance in
 Conference Restructuring

State, U.S. and World:

State, US and World
 Economy
 War in Iraq and Afghanistan
 President, Congress; State leaders, City leaders
 Pray for righteousness in our country
 Recovery from natural disasters in Samoa, Philippines, Indonesia, Georgia

If you would like to list or change your prayer request, please contact Stan Miyamoto: e-mail: stanmiyamoto@gmail.com, cell phone: 277-2833.



Give Thanks in all circumstances
 for this God’s will for you in Christ
 Jesus.
 (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

A Thanksgiving envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Your contributions are used in the general maintenance and functioning of the church. We ask for your prayerful financial support. Thank you.

Harvest Festival 2009 *by Sharon Horita*

The 2009 Harvest Festival was held on Halloween Saturday, October 31st from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at our church parking lot. There were 62 children eagerly waiting for the magic hour when the gate swings open.



The children played dart balloon, floating ring toss, tic-tac-toe, shoot the target, ring toss, and ping pong toss games. There were magnet crafts to create, and little paper books to put together (Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23). After completing all the games and crafts, they were free to create their Ice Cream Sundae with whipped cream, flavored sundae syrups, sprinkles, and fruits. And shaved ice (four flavors) to cool off during these activities and the hot dog with chips were enjoyed by the children, adults, and volunteers.

A completed activity card was the ticket to a special goodie bag and a chance to win a door



prize (large stuffed animals, toys, t-shirts, and many more). In the goodie bags were pencils, pen, glow in the dark necklace, sticker, McDonald gift card, composition book, and candy.

Serving on the Harvest Festival Committee were Joyce Tanji (organizing the goodie bags, door and game prizes), Daniel Miyamoto (setup and take down), Jeanne Nagatani (crafts), Renee Koyama (food) and Darren Nako (games).



Our appreciation goes out to Meadow Gold Dairies for the ice cream, Martin Arinaga for the 50 McDonald gift cards, Lionel Sakamoto for the shaved ice machine, Donna Kranz and the Waipahu YMCA, and to the many people who donated food, supplies, candies and prizes to make this event a success.

It is rewarding to see the smiles, excitement, and appreciation from the children and their parents who came. It is also pleasing to see the renewal of commitment to God and to our church by our volunteers. MAHALO!



Upcoming Events at WOCC:

Mark your calendars and save the dates! Here's what's happening at WOCC! Come join us!

- Sunday, Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Potluck luncheon
- Sunday, Dec. 13: Christmas Caroling
- Sunday, Dec. 20: Light Christmas Potluck Luncheon
- Sunday, Feb. 21: Spring Banquet

More details about these events will be forthcoming.



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Yuji Nakamura, Japanese Pastor
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English Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Adult Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.

Japanese Worship Services - 9:15 a.m.
Children's Church - 10:45 a.m.

WEST OAHU CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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West Oahu
Christian Church

VISION STATEMENT
***"To develop and
strengthen the
congregation to
actively minister to
the community."***

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wocc-hi.org

Q & A on Spiritual Matters

Recently Stan was talking with Daniel and the question came up from an Old Testament reading, "Why do you think God makes such an issue of touching something or someone that has died, so that they are unclean until evening (Lev 11:24-40) Since the Bible does not explain the reason for this, Stan and Daniel speculated on the question, suggesting some possible answers:

A1. So that we will appreciate life. Having to stay outside the camp was a negative thing. Being detached and separated from the community until sundown may help a person to see how valuable life is. Faced with such a consequence, we would gain an appreciating for life and all the good things that comes with it.

A2. Foreshadows New Testament distinctions between life and death. To illustrate, "death-ness" causes a separation between the deceased and those still alive. A person having to stay outside the camp would experience a sampling of the separation that takes place between people when they die. (Praise God that Jesus Christ has nullified the power of death over the believer.)

A3. It is a sign of difference from other nations and "gods." Why does a group wear red shirt with a certain logo on it? To say that we are us, and we are not them. Codes of conduct such as this say we are different from others. In the case of the Israelites it is to say we belong to YHWH and not to other "gods" in the regions around them that revel in death.

Do you have a question that you've been wondering about? Write it down and give it to Stan, and he will try to answer it in a future issue of our Koinonia newsletter.