

Summer 2014

Volume 15, Issue 20

Koinonia

Pastor's Corner ...

West Oahu Christian Church
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Worship Services:

Japanese Worship /
Bible Study

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

English Worship

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Sunday School:

Adult English Bible
Classes

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

Children's Ministry:

Breakfast Program

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM

Children's Church

9:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Children's Activities
Program/Child Care:

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Upcoming Events:

Aloha Reception:

September 21

Athanasius

One of the Greatest Men You Probably Never Knew

If I said, "**Athanasius**," would you tell me what an amazing man he was, or would you say, "Gesundheit!?" Two months ago, I would have said Gesundheit!, but now, after doing a research paper on his life, I am amazed. I'll try not to over-excite you with the drama of his life, so let me share just two things that have astounded me, and inspire me to not "settle for less."

First, I was amazed at how excellent Athanasius was regarding his personal temperament. Athanasius' contemporary, Gregory of Nazianzus, said that the saint possessed a "**harmony of excellences**." He was business-like and sympathetic, an excellent organizer and tender-hearted, strict but not rigid, a theologian who was "a truly lovable man." I find it amazing how one man can have so many strengths, yet not be "off-balance" by having too much of this or too little of that. For these and other reasons, historian William Bright considers Athanasius' name to be "the **greatest** in post-apostolic Church history." **Wow, right?!**

Personally, I am challenged by this thought: just because we have a strength in one area does not mean we *necessarily* must have a weakness in another. People *can* be strong in "opposite" temperamental qualities (**not** that everyone will, mind you.) I wonder how often I've sold myself short by doubting, even before trying, that I can be strong in something. Honestly, I have often thought that if I was strong in one area, it was okay to be weak in another, and didn't need to develop it.

Studying Athanasius has inspired me not to give up before I try. Even if I may not be a shining star at something, I should conscientiously give it my all. The apostle Paul said, "... *whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men...*" (Col 3:23) Whatever task the Lord has for me, I should always try to do my best.

Secondly, I am amazed by Athanasius' **strong ambition**, not for himself, but for Christ. Athanasius' life continually showed that his motives were not self-glory. He was exiled five times for his firm stance on Biblical doctrine, and continued working for the Lord. There are those who relentlessly desire to promote themselves, but Athanasius relentlessly desired to promote **Christ**, no matter what the cost. Just as Paul said, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain," (Phil 1:21) I am convinced that if Athanasius' name never showed up in the history books, he would not care, because it was never about him, but about **Christ**.

Athanasius' example challenges me: the less we worry about ourselves, how we look to others, and being self-conscious, the more we can vigorously get about the work to which the Lord has called us. The takeaway for me has been

(continued on next page)

Pastor's Corner *(continued)*

a *greater disinterest* in gaining personal glory or building my own empire. It is all about Jesus Christ, for **He alone is worthy!**

So now, when I say, "Athanasius," what will you say? Like him, may we all be people who worry less about what we can or cannot do, and instead, do our best at whatever Christ has for us. May we not be concerned about *our* glory, but draw near to Jesus Christ, and desire to carry out His work with excellence!

God's Richest Blessing to You,

Stan

Summer Water Adventure Program (SWAP) by Joan Doi

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Matthew

9:37-38

"Trust" is a concept that's hard to grasp for some of our youngsters who often aren't sure where they will be living, with whom and for how long. And so, with this burden on our hearts, we focused our SWAP program with an emphasis on TRUST and OBEDIENCE. What better lesson to draw from than the story of NOAH who, because of his unfailing trust and faithful obedience to God, helped to perpetuate life on earth to this very day. And, oh yes! Noah's story is a water adventure unsurpassed by any other. It naturally led to a fun time of water play. Story time, crafts and music were theme-related and the lunch crew worked hard to end the day with well fed tummies. Thank you to the many adults who assisted in serving morning snacks and lunch, leading assembly singing, providing mini-devotions, chaperoning, setting up the facilities, assisting the kids with their crafts, and generally helping wherever needed. We could not have accomplished all that we did without their help. MAHALO!



Christmas in July by Joyce Tanjii



This year, Christmas came early for our Children's Church kids. School supplies, shoes, and clothing items were distributed on July 20th in time for the start of school. The children's wish list were distributed to "angels" in our congregation who purchased the requested items noted on each child's list. Other generous members chose to donate funds and school supplies. Over 35 children/youth were recipients of this worthy project. Thank you very much to the many "angels" who so willingly took the time and effort to grant the children's wishes.

WOCC Youth Camp 2014 by Camp Participants

We had a great time at camp! The camp was fun and interesting for us all but especially for the first time campers. Nobody got hurt and there was hardly any trouble. We would like to thank the teachers, chaperones and everyone else who made this camp possible.

We learned some new skills while preparing for camp, like how to put up a tent and the importance of following instructions if we want to have a tent to sleep in!



Mr. Darren (Nako), camp coordinator, held devotionals each morning. The first morning we learned that there are 86,400 seconds in a day. During the devotional he presented a challenge where we would have to spend a large sum of money each day or lose it all. Most of us spent the 'money' on ourselves. But by the end of the second morning's devotion time, we began to understand that we should start to care for others by giving our time and things to others who are in need of help.

Sharing and giving is a way that we can show God's love and share our faith with



others knowing that God will bless us not only on Earth but also in Heaven. Part of Luke 6:23 reads, "When that time happens, REJOICE! Yes, leap for joy for you will have a great reward in heaven." We enjoyed our camping experience and now want to give back to our families, the church and our communities.

A special thank you to Mr. Darren for all of his hard work before, during and after camp! Also, to the other chaperones: Mr. Joel (Duldulao), Mr. Daniel (Miyamoto), and Mrs. Phyllis (Nakasone) and Mrs. Tena (Ponder Thacker). And lastly, camping brought us closer together and especially closer to Jesus.

VISION STATEMENT

"To develop and strengthen the congregation to actively minister to the community"

WOCC 2014–2015 Board Members and Committee Chairs

Board of Deacons

Chair - Darren Nako
 Vice Chair - Martin Arinaga
 Member - Daniel Miyamoto
 Member - Neal Takamoto
 Member - Pastor Stan Miyamoto

Board of Trustees

President & Auditor- Dennis Nagatani
 Vice President - Charles Nako
 Secretary - Joan Doi
 Finance - Nancy Murakami
 Auditor - Samuel Tanji
 Member - Pastor Stan Miyamoto

Committee Chairs

Benevolence - Helen Matsueda
 Christian Education - Joyce Tanji & Joan Doi
 Evangelism - Jeanne Nagatani
 Fellowship - Tena Ponder-Thacker
 Finance - Martin Arinaga
 Missions - Roberta Nagano
 Policy - Neal Takamoto
 Worship - Daniel Miyamoto

Finally, Jeanne Nagatani has graciously volunteered to serve as the Board of Deacons Recording Secretary for this fiscal year.

WEST OAHU CHRISTIAN CHURCH

94-420 Farrington Hwy
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Prayer Requests & Praises:

Individuals:

- Merle Moribe suffered a stroke on Monday, August 18, and was hospitalized for a week. Her condition is improving. Please pray for her recovery as she goes through rehab therapy.

WOCC and OMS Conference Activities:

- Pray for wisdom and discernment for our Building Ad hoc committee as they review a number of possibilities for a new building.
- Praise the Lord for the many disciplers He has provided at WOCC. Pray that God will take every believer deeper, and expand our discipleship to impact those beyond WOCC.
- Pray that our youth will go deep with Jesus Christ. Pray for our Youth Ministry to grow and develop. Pray that God will provide more youth leaders to help disciple these ones who Jesus loves!
- Pray for the possible need for an assistant pastor or staff. We are looking at possible needs in the areas of Youth and Young Adult ministries.
- Pray that God will lead us church-wide in growing disciples in the area of prayer. Pray for the avenues through which to make it a deep practice.

If you would like to list or change your prayer request, please contact Stan Miyamoto: via a note, or e-mail at stanmiyamoto@gmail.com

"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

John 14:13-14

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.wocc-hi.org