



Proclaiming Christ's Love in Mililani and the World:

Building For Eternity

Mililani Community Church

Volume 1, Issue 6

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Corner

Rick Bartosik,

Pastor's Corner	1
Celebrating God's Faithfulness	1
A Win-Win for Jesus!	1
MCC Reflections	2

VICTORY GOAL IN SIGHT

All of us have had our faith stretched during our building campaign as we have seen the Lord demonstrate His faithfulness: First in His miraculous provision of land in Mililani Mauka that was paid for in full at closing; and now in the generous and sacrificial giving of MCC members who have made pledges during our "Building for Eternity" stewardship campaign.

The "victory goal" for the stewardship campaign is \$600,000, which is one half of the estimated cost of the first phase of our new church facility. As of mid-November we have \$655,860 in the Building Fund. This includes

\$587,460 in pledges made over the past two months, and \$68,400 in cash that was given over the past year, most of it prior to our current campaign.

To reach our victory goal of \$600,000 in pledges for this campaign we have \$12,540 to go!

As you share in our "Building for Eternity" vision, you will have the joy of seeing God do great and marvelous things through your giving no matter how great or small your contribution to the Lord.

Our giving during this campaign will not only honor the Lord as we seek to follow His leading in building a permanent church home for the procla-

mation of the Gospel; our giving will also result in a greater sense of unity in our church body as we trust the LORD to accomplish His plans through us!

If you have not yet given to the Building for Eternity Stewardship Campaign, do so this week and help us attain our victory goal, for the glory of God.

Proverbs 22:6 instructs us: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Deuteronomy 6:6-7 states: "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. . . . Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."



Don't forget those pennies!

CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Over 170 current and former members, attenders, and friends of Mililani Community Church celebrated God's faithfulness at the 25th Anniversary Stewardship Dinner on Sunday, October 9, 2005. It was a special evening of reflecting on the past, reconnecting with old friends, feasting on Hawaiian food, and praying that God will use our congregation to open doors and build lives for eternity in Mililani Mauka and the World

Special thanks go out to Daye Tominaga, Chris Matsumoto, and the koinonia committee for planning the event; Chris Rhoades for his video remembrance of MCC's history; Trinity Church Central Oahu for al-

lowing us to use their beautiful new facility for the celebration; Pastor Pete Anderson, for his words of encouragement and inspiration; Mitch Chun and the teens and young adults, for sharing their gifts of song and dance; Taryn Dela Sierra and George Rhoades for reminding us about our current ministries and the exciting opportunities for future growth; Warren Nakamura for his beautiful visual presentation of our plans for a ministry facility in Mililani Mauka; Jerry and Diana Ho for preparing the delicious feast; George Ehara, for emceeding the event; and the many other hands, feet, and hearts that made the evening possible.

A WIN-WIN FOR JESUS!

by Cori Watanabe

Early on Thanksgiving morning, I stuffed some grocery bags in my pocket, put on my walking shoes, and went for a brisk walk with Duncan, my son's Pomeranian. By the time I returned home, I had filled a grocery bag with 22 glass bottles, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans that were littering our route. When recycled, the contents of the bag will yield \$1.10 for the MCC Building Fund.

What a Win-Win! Not only did Duncan and I have fun, but we also got some exercise, helped clean up our environment, and raised some change for Jesus! A dollar a day for the Building Fund over three years is over \$1,000.

Building For Eternity

MCC Reflections

Gary Okimoto

Mililani community Church's 25th anniversary is partly coming to me as a shock because I have been in this church for 20 of those years. I feel old. I hardly remember the homes but I remember them. I remember when we just had Sunday school in a newly built Waena cafeteria and the parents were still at a home worshipping God. I remember when our Christmas programs were held at the Kipapa elementary cafeteria. Whatever happened to the walk through Bethlehem's? Those were amazing but also very hard to put on. I remember when there was no Children's church and I was playing with my action figures while the pastor at the time was talking. Did you know that Sunday school used to be outside where the bathrooms are now? Later on we got upgraded to real classes as you can now tell. I remember watching our church play many years of softball; we even made it to the final game and lost by a little. I remember always wanting to play on that team as I watched my dad hit that ball with all that he had and then I finally got the chance to play with the guys. I remember when a building was dream and now it is a reality. Through all of this I have learned a lot and I could write pages about how this church has been used to play a major role in my life, I could tell you about the amazing people who have come and gone, I could tell you about the good times and the hard times but I want to tell you that God is everything and that everything that I do and you do should revolve around him. Our focus should be on God and how he wants to use us in the community for the next 25 years.

Alisa Wong

As the 25th anniversary dinner approaches, I thought about our church and its ministries and how things have changed since the days when I was only knee-high. Having had this opportunity to watch the church grow and change, I have been taught many things by this precious church family, through the good times as well as the trials. Though people have come and gone, God has used them to impact my life in some way. From a dear sister in Christ gone home so soon, I am reminded of the brevity of life, the importance to love to the utmost, and having seen the peace that God gives. From my best friends moving away I found a best friend who had been there all along and learned to cherish the friendships that the Lord blesses us with. I learned that the church family, like with all families, can't always be picked and they will never be perfect; but you love them all the same. We do not always see eye to eye,

but we help each other in times of need.

May we continue to learn from one another and may this church be blessed, fruitful in ministry, as it has been a blessing in my life.

Dayna Wong

As I recently turned 19, I came upon the realization that I've literally grown up in this church. I remember Bible studies at the Kataharas' house (of course, we were just the kids playing Pool and Pacman downstairs). I also remember the Easter Egg hunts (one year we even tried Jello eggs), and the long search for a new pastor, the decision to give our church a name change, and I remember the worship leaders who've come and gone (Uncle Terry, David, Bryan, our dad, and now Mitchell, Gary, and Isaac). I recall being in various Christmas plays (I particularly remember being a shepherd...and strongly disliking the fake beards we had to paint on); and I remember being a part of Children's Church, which we eventually got kicked out of, due to natural causes of aging. But of all the changes that I can remember over my limited 19 years of life, I suppose I'll reiterate something that has remained constant: the church is not just a building or a piece of property, it's not just a group of people who share the same beliefs; it's a HOME where God's family gathers to worship Him and welcome others. You can leave your slippers at the door.

Sean Takahashi

If you were to ask me to tell you a story from my childhood, I probably wouldn't be able to tell you much. In fact, I would probably have a hard time telling you a story from last week. Despite my poor memory, I can never forget the impact Mililani Community Church has had on my life. Thinking back on my years as a part of this family, I finally realize how it can take an entire village to raise a kid. I remember those who I have grown to call Auntie and Uncle who were my teachers, discipliners, food source, and support all in one. I will never forget the smell coming from Auntie Elaine's kitchen of all the fresh baked desserts as we anxiously waited downstairs for the bible study to finish. Not only has this church provided me with so many aunts and uncles to raise me, but also with the most incredible friends to support me. With these friends, I continue to grow in Christ as I create new memories that I will not soon forget. I am so thankful for God placing me in this family and for everything I

have gained from being at this church, and very excited to see what else God has in store for me.

Janice Okimoto

Looking back through the years, I realized how many blessings God has poured down on me through my church family. I was born into the church and it was by the example of my church family that I found out how to have a relationship with my Father in heaven. As I grew, God surrounded me with caring teachers, loving aunts and uncles and dear brothers and sisters. The church supported me through many mission trips to help further the Kingdom of God; I was encouraged and given godly examples to live by. I remember as a little girl sitting down on the tarps, under one of the lanai's with all of the other children and singing the happy birthday song:

"A happy birthday to you, a happy birthday to you, everyday of the year, may you feel Jesus near. A happy birthday to you, a happy birthday to you, may it be the best year you ever had. Jesus, Jesus loves Gary and Janice (they sang the song with both of our names in it to save time) yes He does, yes He does. Jesus, Jesus loves Gary and Janice, yes He does, yes He does, Jesus. Jesus loves Gary and Janice yes He does, yes He does, and Jesus hopes that Gary and Janice will love Him too."

Another memory I fondly remember is advent log making. Since I was very young I always loved to make those logs with the green sprigs and candles. It is always such a great time of fellowship, trying to figure out how to tie the greens on and wondering just how you are suppose to make the bows. Not to mention the great football or soccer game after advent log making. There is always a special little book explaining what each candle means and a little song. It was something to the family to do together at the dinner table.

20 precious years have passed since my mother brought me into this church family. I am now a sophomore in college. I have met many people, said good-bye to many people, shared tears, joys, struggles, blessings and have seen many people taken up to God's embrace. God's love has been shown in so many different ways to me through so many people. No matter how our church changes, a building, a new name, whatever it may be, my church family will always have a special place in my heart.
