

Living *in the* Light

November , 2004 Issue III

“But if we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.” -1 John 1:7

Prayer Request:

- Complete recovery for David Omura.
- Comfort for the Hamaguchi family for the loss of Uncle Wayne.
- Comfort for the Nakamura family for the loss of Mr. Fukunaga.
- Comfort for the Klingin-smiths for the loss of Anya's father.
- Upcoming finals for students.
- Safe trip for those returning home from the mainland.
- Safety during the Christmas holiday season.

E-mail any requests to sean-taka@yahoo.com

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Halloween Missions Fair

When most kids hear that Halloween time is near, they immediately get excited about being able to dress up and collect as much candy as possible. The tradition of trick-or-treating, however, has the potential to be a very dangerous activity. That is why, every year, Mililani Community Church teams with the Mililani Missionary Church to provide a safe alternative for not only the children of the two churches, but also for the entire community. For many years, the Halloween Alternative has also been called the Missions Fair, due to its second purpose, which is to support the many missionaries who have dedicated their lives to serving the Lord in all corners of the earth.

In order to raise these funds to support the

missionaries, three main activities take place. These are the food booth, the country store, and of course, the games. The food booth sells items donated by the two congregations, including baked goods, caramel apples, and of course, spam musubi. The country store sells various items, from arts and crafts to even a few baked goods. Although these are the biggest moneymakers of the night, the most popular among the kids are the games. These games provide a safe and fun way for the younger kids to collect their candy, and also supporting the missionaries by donating five cents to play the game. This year, the Mililani Community Church youth were in charge of three of

By Sean Takahashi



Nathan and John waiting for the kids to come to their nerf gun booth.

these games. One game challenged the kids to shoot stuffed animals scattered around the booth a nerf gun and another forced the kids to guess what Halloween item was in the various boxes by just feeling the item. The third game left everything and everyone one in the booth soaked, as the kids shot water guns at beach balls in order to Fair, knock them out of (cont. from Halloween

EFCA Combined Youth Worship Opens the Skies for Many

By Gary Okimoto

“Your Grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough for me” These very words were sang by everyone at Kalihi Union Church on November 13, 2004 as the evangelical free churches on Oahu came

together to worship God with all that they had to offer.

This is not the first time that EFCA has come together to worship God. About every two months the youth from the EFCA churches come together to

share their love for God through music. Many worship teams do not get the chance to hear other teams. And that is one of the many reasons that EFCA combined youth worship was created

The theme was

Missions page 1) inner tubes. As much fun as these games are for the kids, the youth definitely can enjoy themselves running these booths.

As important as the candy is to Halloween, the night would not have been complete without the costumes. Of course the kids dressed up in costumes ranging from ninjas to pirates, but even the youth got involved with the dress up this year. The youth's costumes included an injured athlete, a SWAT person (what was Jon), a group of tourists, and a Hawaiian little red riding hood, delivering the good news to her tutu.

The activities, however, almost did not take place this Halloween night. Soon after church, a severe thunderstorm rolled over Oahu, bringing relentless winds and inches of rain. Thunder even seemed to shake buildings, easily making this the largest storm Hawaii has seen in a while. But by God's grace, the storm cleared just in time for the Missions Fair to continue. All in all, even with the unusual weather, the night continued without major problems, allowing for the churches to meet both goals of providing a safe alternative for the kids and supporting the many missionaries.

Local Girl Ventures Off to College

By Hannah Knapp

Do you ever wonder what happens to those kids who leave their homes on the island as they venture out into the unknown world? This column of the newsletter will keep you updated on the lives of the college students. This month's college student is the freshmen outsider hitter for the "Thunderbirds" at Cascade College Jennifer Bracerros. Jennifer received both an academic and athletic scholarship from Cascade because of her grades in the classroom and skills on the volleyball courts at Hanalani Christian Schools.

Even though it's been a big change from living in the islands, she really enjoys her time in Portland, Oregon. Her classes are a challenge, but they're fun at the same time. Jen is majoring in business but her favorite class this semester is psychology. Jen has made many new friends, including her "awesome roommate and the other freshmen on the team." She just ended her first volleyball season. "It was hard adjusting to the way they play, but I've

*"It's just not right,
I'm turning white!"*

gotten used to it." Jen has loved it up there, but when it comes to talking about home, she says, "ohhh nooo!" She misses so many things; the warm weather, her friends, her family, and yes, "the food." But above all else, there's one thing that has made her depressed. Jen has lost...her tan, "'It's just not right. I'm turning white!!" Well,

throughout this experience, Jen has learned teamwork, the disciplines of college life, and most importantly, God has been teaching her patience with herself

and her team. During these past few months Jen has drawn closer to Christ, as He has been her support and strength. She misses hanging out with her friends; she'd loved to hear from them, and for all those who miss her too, "I'm coming home for Christmas."

College Speakers Encourage Youth

By Gary Okimoto

The question for many students in high school is what college should I attend? Mililani Community Church helped some students and even some college students going to Leeward Community College make that decision.

This month's youth bible study was held at the Uyeno's home. On November 7th the MCC youth were privileged to have Dave Jounghward from Multnomah Bible College, where Amy Knapp, an MCC member attends, speak about the negative and the positives of going to a bible college.

The MCC youth were also privileged on November 14th to have Andre

Stephens from Biola University give the youth his testimony and how he found Biola. He currently works in the admissions office for Biola University. There are three students from MCC currently attending – David Bartosik, Justin Knapp, and Jonah Nagashima. So what college will you attend? "Choosing college is not an easy choice," says Sean Takahashi, a Junior attending the University of Hawaii. We need to trust God with all of our hearts and in all that we do. This is a big decision that will influence your future; so trust God with all that you have!

Youth Bible Study

@

Uyeno's Home

Nov.-Dec

5:30-7:00PM

'Thinking Like A Christian'

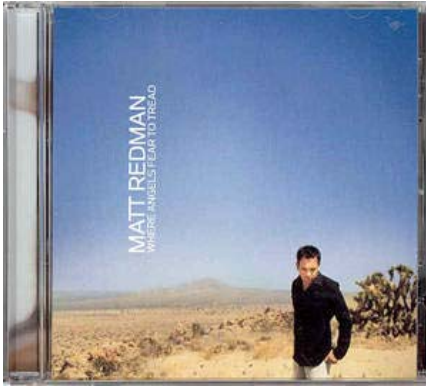
Worship...

Prayer...

Dinner

Song of the Month: Blessed Be The Name

By Gary Okimoto



Matt Redman's Where Angels Fear to Tread

This month's song has been the number one song on the Air 1 music charts for nine straight weeks.

"Blessed Be Your Name" is a powerful worship song that has one simple message; bless God through the good and the bad.

Matt Redman, a well-known worship leader, and his wife Beth Redman, had a passion to write this song during the time of the tragic 9/11 events. "I have to say that we've received more personal testimony feedback from this song than any other. I have come across some of the harshest life circumstances I've heard of as people have emailed in their stories of how they've chosen to worship our amazing God even in some of the hardest times of life. More than anything, this reminds me of how much pain there is in

the world, and about how important it is to be real, honest and true (yet always remaining reverent) in the worshipping church."

Hopefully we are all thankful for God and blessing his name, even as we read this article. Thanksgiving is not the only time to be thankful for God. No matter what the circumstances of our situations, we should raise voices of thanksgiving to our Lord. We as the body of Christ should always be thankful in all that we do for him.

Get the lyrics at:

<http://www.lyricsbox.com/matt-redman-lyrics-blessed-be-your-name-pfs45jc.html>

Closer Than Jacob Leads Worship

On November 28, 2004, Mililani Community Church was privileged to have a special guest worship team led by Andrew Uchida, Youth Pastor at Faith Christian Fellowship. Team members: Kainalu Busque (drums), Justin Williams (electric guitar), Mark Palompo (bass), and Andrew Uchida (acoustic guitar/vocals) make up Closer Than Jacob. There's nothing we love to do more than glorifying, honoring, and exalting God with the music we play, and assisting others to do the same. There is no one like our

God. HE is great and greatly to be praised!

About our name..."Closer Than Jacob"- it doesn't describe a static state of non-movement. Rather, it implies a journey, or more specifically our final destination - our goal. It's where we want to be one day. Not where we are now. Jacob wrestled with God and begged God to bless him. He would not let go of God. That's what we want to define our lives. Not just in this one moment, but a lifetime of our movement towards God and not away from

him. One day we will be "closer than Jacob," when we stand with God in heaven. But for now it serves as a



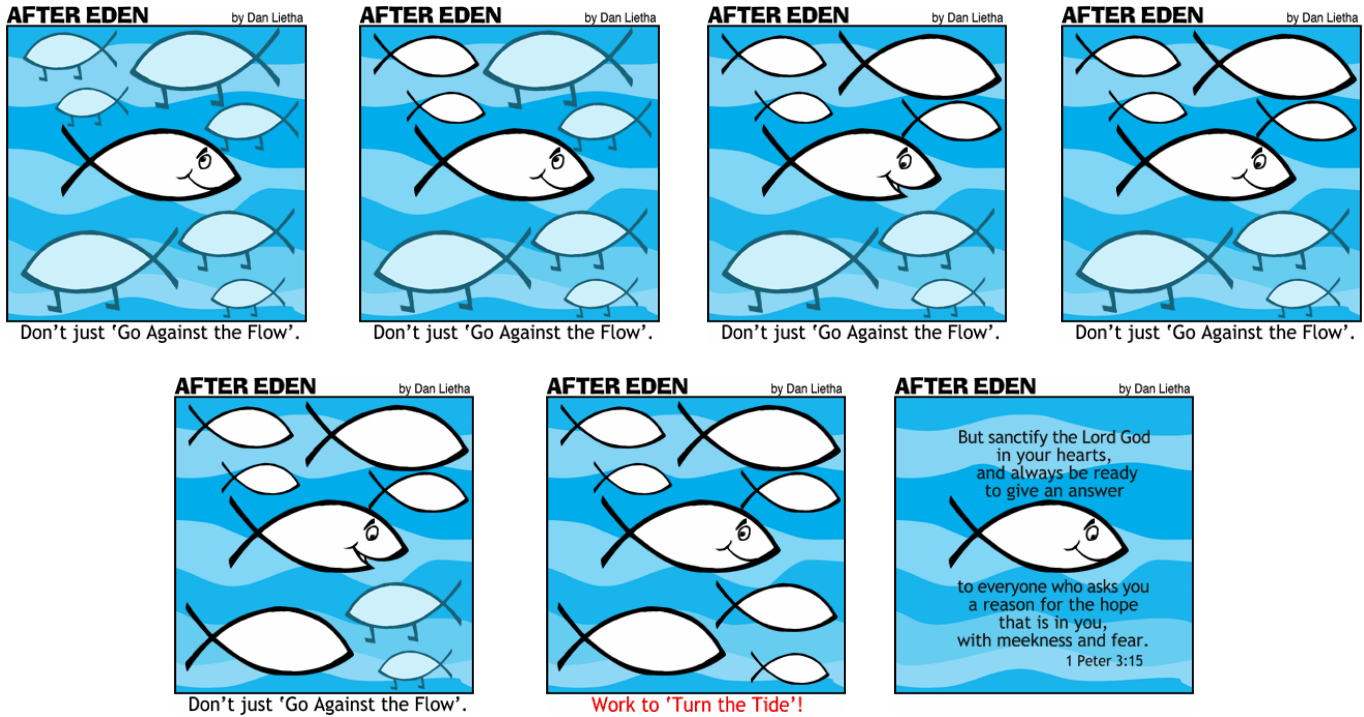
"Closer Than Jacob"

Members: Kainalu Busque, Justin Williams, Mark Palompo, and Andrew Uchida

"Open Skies" a night of (cont. from Combined Worship page 1) worship under the stars. Each youth group was offered a topic on which they would lead people in worship. Mililani Community Church was offered the topic on Grace. Grace is the unmerited love and favor from God to man. Normally there are four or five groups that lead worship, but this year only three were able to attend, but they did very well.

The night was filled with God's presence that touched the hearts of those who attended. Chevy Martinez, a spectator, said "when I was worshipping, I felt like nothing mattered but God." People were singing as loud as they could, not worrying about what they sounded like because they wanted to give all that they had to God. Isn't that what worship to God is suppose to be? Think about it!

"That's how worship is supposed to be..."



Comic from http://www.answersingenesis.org/AfterEden/AE_Pages/ae3-17-2003.asp by Dan Lietha

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) Review

By Janice Okimoto



The lights dim and the noise stops. You're backstage getting into your role and as soon as the noise stops, you get the addictive adrenaline rush that goes along with performing. You step into your character and for a period of time you are not who you were born as. I miss doing theater performances at Mililani High School. I was in the Tri-school Ensemble Theater Company for all four years of my high school career and it was the best thing about going to high school. Unfortunately, I graduated and this past month I attended the fall play as most alumni

from Tri-school do. It really made me miss being on stage and holding the audience captivated as you spin your story. This fall, Tri-school had a new director, Jamie Rolfsmeyer, and she chose to do "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare - Abridged." Basically, it does most of the tragedies, comedies and histories that Shakespeare wrote, in 90 minutes. There were only six characters in the play and as a result, all of the actors had to play the many numerous roles involved in the Shakespeare's plays. One of the actors, Kevin Demming, played most of the women parts and it was hilarious listening to his falsetto voice. This play is meant to have a less professional and more relaxed feel, which the ensemble did a very good job portraying. To match that feel, the set was done very unprofessionally and all the basic costumes were black shirts, black pants, white socks and high tops. To become the characters of the various plays, they would add on pieces of

clothing or accessories. The play involved a lot of audience participation including picking a member of the audience to scream as Ophelia (from the play Othello). Guess whom they picked? That's right, me! How ironic that as I was missing being onstage, they pick me to scream. The actors all thought it was very funny to pick me, since I was in Tri-school the year before. I would give the play a PG-13 rating, as there were a few jokes with sexual connotations that may have been inappropriate for younger children. Our own Chevy Martinez did a great job as the spotlight guy, which is more difficult than one may think. Natalie Frazier, also apart of our youth group was given the position of assistant director, where she helped actors with their lines and blocking. For their spring musical, Tri-school is going to be putting on "Annie." I look forward to going back to my alma mater and seeing how far they progress with this musical.