

HEART-TO-HEART

We are reminded that Christ is in our hearts and we are in His and that love connects us all in unity.

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Psalm 28:7

Happy or Joyful?

Many of us just want to be happy. We hardly ever think of being joyful instead.

The difference between being happy and being joyful are quite profound. Happiness occurs when everything is pleasant and trouble-free. It's fleeting and superficial as you don't continue to feel happy when there's adversity. Joy has been described as spiritual fruit that comes from our relationship

with God and comes from within us. Joy is of the soul and happiness is of the moment.

Believing in Christ and knowing that he is always with you brings a joy to believers that cannot be taken away in the face of adversity.

When our lives are filled with peace, faith and joy, people will want to know what we have.

- David Jeremiah

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A Senior Moment...Just Because, Laughter Is Good Medicine

by Linda Kunimitsu

Recently, I sent a text to a good friend. I'll call her Alice Holler. I then get a call from another friend, Alice Ho. She says, "What's this I got from you re [regarding] Ethel? It doesn't make sense. I don't know any Ethel."

Oops! Wrong person! Their first names are the same and their last names are almost the same, see. Now, admit it—you've done similar things, right? So embarrassing, no?

Send us your senior moment!



Hot Chocolate

(shared on Pinterest - unknown author)

A group of graduates, well established in their careers, were talking at a reunion and decided to go visit their old university professor, now retired. During their visit, the conversation turned to complaints about stress in their work and lives. Offering his guests hot chocolate, the professor went into the kitchen and returned with a large pot of hot chocolate and an assortment of cups - porcelain, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the hot chocolate.

When they all had a cup of hot chocolate in hand, the professor said: "Notice that all the nice looking, expensive cups were taken, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. The cup that you're drinking from adds nothing to the quality of the hot chocolate. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was hot chocolate, not the cup: but you consciously went for the best cups...and then you began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the hot chocolate; your job, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life. The cup you have does not define, nor change the quality of life you have. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the hot chocolate God has provided us. God makes the hot chocolate, man chooses the cups. The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything that they have. Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. And enjoy your hot chocolate.



"Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.."

-Epicurus

Who Was Henry Opukaha'ia?

by Linda Kunimitsu

It was sometime in the 1970s-80s that I first saw the above name. I had resigned from the State civil service system and had opened a secretarial and answering service at the Pearlridge Office Center. A Mr. Abe brought a manuscript for me to type. I was not a Christian and typing it was just another job. The book was on the life of Henry Opukaha'ia.

Then, in 1993 (about 20 years later) my dad suddenly passed away in a fishing accident. My husband, Nori, and I returned to Kona to help my mom with a 10-acre coffee and macadamia nut farm. Mauka Kona is on the slopes of Maunaloa, and the home I grew up in has a panoramic view of the valley and ocean below.

One day I was looking out the window and noticed many cars in the yard of Kahikolu Congregational Church, which was about two miles away down in the valley. It was unusual. Did some dignitary die, I wondered.

The next day, there was an article in the paper, and it was the day that Henry O's remains were returned home. Henry was born in 1792; and, as a young adventuresome lad, had traveled to Connecticut and had become a Christian enroute. He became a born-again Christian with much enthusiasm and longed to return to Hawaii to share the gospel with his people. He was one of the very first Hawaiians to become a Christian.

I would like to add that Henry became an orphan at 15 when his parents were killed in tribal warfare. While carrying his brother to get away, the child also was killed. Henry was then forced to live with the family who had killed his family. When God's love touched him, he must have experienced the great comfort of Jesus Christ, which finally healed his painful heart.

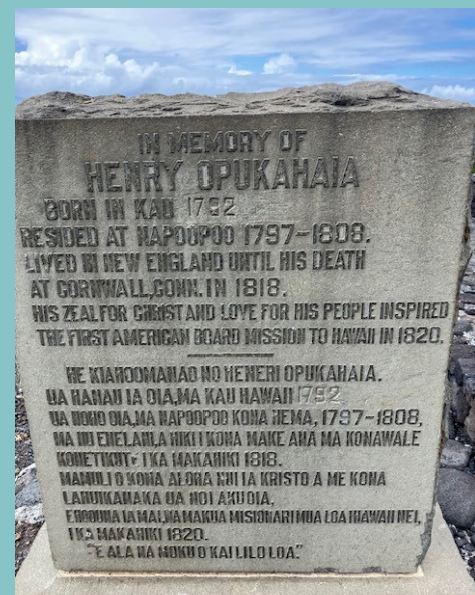
In Connecticut, he contracted typhus fever and died at the tender age of 26. The year was 1818. His zeal for Christ, however, was noticed by the Mission Board and in 1820, the first missionaries started sailing to Hawaii.

This article was inspired by Joel Duldulao's sermon in February on Political Correctness. When he briefly mentioned Henry Opukaha'ia, I thought, there's that name again. Lord, what do you want me to do about Henry O?

Hence, I took a drive down to the church to visit Henry O's grave this morning, March 15, 2024. There was a gate so I had to walk into the grounds. It was a beautiful morning—so serene. Not a soul did I see, for which I was grateful. The church grounds were neatly manicured but below Henry's grave were groves of wild koa and local brush, with the panoramic ocean beyond. On the mauka side, Maunaloa's slopes were green with a splattering of houses. Most weren't there when I was growing up in the fifties.

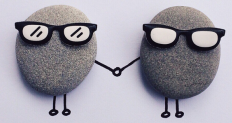
The stone church mauka side of the grave was the third church by the missionaries. It has a history of its own. If you visit Kona, do take a drive down Napoopoo Rd to Kahikolu Church. They also hold Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.

If I happen to be in Kona, I'd be happy to accompany you!



Fellowship at WOCC

It was a fun-filled Saturday for the talented card makers of WOCC as Sharon Kishaba and Jeanne Nagatani hosted another card making session. The participants were able to show off their creativity, talk story, enjoy the worship team's jam session, and top it off with good food. Thanks to Darren Nako for setting up the sanctuary for the event. Be on the lookout for other fellowship opportunities at WOCC.



"The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer."

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER



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