

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.



"Find a moment, just a simple moment, to close your eyes and think of the men and women who protect the freedoms you enjoy. It's a privilege, not a right."

— Matthew Lillard

Independence Day

As we celebrate the 4th of July this year, let us give thanks to our Lord that we enjoy the freedoms that we have in America and as a part of God's family.

As an American we often take our freedoms for granted, and we blindly trust that our nation's leaders will continue to prioritize and preserve those freedoms. Let us continue to pray for our leaders to make the right decisions for the citizens that they represent.

As followers of Christ, there is another freedom that we enjoy - freedom from sin and death because of Christ's sacrifice for us.

Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:13-14: *"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

Let us enjoy the freedom that God has given to us by showing Christ's love to others. Sounds simple. ❤️

IN THIS ISSUE

Memories of Days
Gone By

Introducing Jason & Alli

All Church Clean Up

Memories of Days Gone By

by Linda Kunimitsu

What are your memories of Independence Day? For me, growing up in the coffee fields of Kona, it was the annual 4th of July country fair held at Kona's then one and only high School, Konawaena.

It was the biggest event of the year. The gym transformed into a place of rows and rows of tables which held anything you could think of—baked goods and all kinds of goodies; flowers and plants that community members had nurtured throughout the year; hand crafts of embroidery and crochet. Like the more recent swap meets or garage sales, somebody's junk turned into somebody's treasure. There were blue ribbons and red ribbons and yellow ribbons as recognition for something well done. Nobody complained when they didn't get a ribbon. It was a lot of fun, innocence, and respect for each other.

Outside, the tennis court turned into rows of booths. This is where the children hung out. My favorite was the "fishing booth." There were bamboos cut from groves in coffee farms with strings attached to a clothes pin. You clipped on a ticket, threw it into the booth and magically it came back with a toy. Of course there were the usual games of knocking down the bottles and throwing darts at the balloons—games that you still see today. (Well, maybe not; I haven't gone to a fair in decades.)

I don't remember any parades or fireworks way back then; this was in the 50s, you see. The band room held exhibits. For the life of me, I can't remember what they were. Must have been boring.

What I miss is singing patriotic songs. I went, from first grade, to a small elementary school about a mile from the farm where I grew up. No matter where we were on campus, we stood at attention and faced the flag pole on the second bell; the flag was being raised. On the next bell, we could continue to our class or cafeteria; that is, if you were on cafeteria duty.

Up to the fourth grade, the morning rituals were the same. The first thing we did was say the Lord's Prayer, then we said the Pledge of Allegiance ("under God"), and sang a patriotic song (God Bless America, America the Beautiful, Glory, Glory Hallelujah, etc.).

What sweet memories! Please share yours!

May God bless you this patriotic season and always!



"True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth."

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Introducing Jason and Alli (mostly Jason)

by Stan Miyamoto

When Amy and I started attending Honolulu Christian Church in 1992, I met Chris and Jason, two young men who were best friends. Not only were they best friends, but I noticed that Jesus was their best friend. There was a conspicuous difference between their spiritual hunger and that of others. In their spare time they loved to talk about Jesus (and basketball).

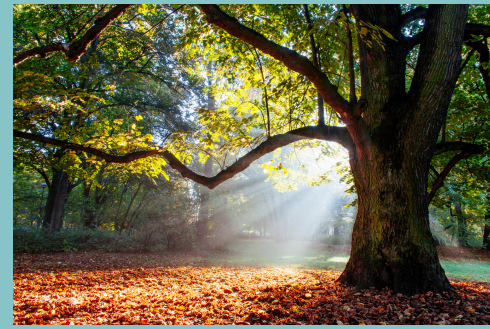
It was a great blessing to be thought of as a mentor for Jason. I think I saw myself more as an older brother. I had no “ministry development plan” for him to do and check off (although he would later have that in seminary.) I just asked Jason if he’d like to tag along if he had time. We talked about the Bible and church, went to the beach, shopped for stuff, and went on visitations.

But the mentoring wasn’t just one way. Jason would show me interesting things like futuristic cell phone ring tones, photo-voltaic chargers, and portable keyboards for his cell phone. Hmmm ... from my keen powers of observation, I discerned that Jason was a techy guy.

In reality, Jason had a *lot* of mentors. That’s because he was hungry to learn. He read. He watched. He listened. He observed. He remembered what people said and did. Jason gathered the best of what people offered, and learned an astounding amount of principles and wisdom from his many mentors. Jason was not haughty. He looked up to people ... and absorbed. I think that his humble spirit and inquisitive mind contributed to his wide scope of knowledge today.

Although I mentored Jason, he was definitely a better man than I ever was. You know how at weddings they have the first kiss, first dance, first shoving cake into your loved one’s mouth? Well, it was at their wedding that I realized just how much of a better man Jason was. When Jason and Alli had their first kiss as a married couple, it was their first kiss. Ever! Really? In this day and age? Yes, their first kiss ever! I thought, *When I grow up, I want to be like him!*

Now that Jason and Alli are at WOCC, YOU will get to know Jason for yourself!



*"Continuity gives us roots;
change gives us branches,
letting us stretch and grow
and reach new heights."*

PAULINE R. KEZER

All Church Clean Up

All Church Clean Up was held on Saturday, June 29. Thank you to all who participated. Big mahalo to Darren Nako for leading the event and for the ono lunch that he prepared for the participants. The facility is looking good - in time to welcome Jason and Alli.



"Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

-Mattie Stepanek



94-420 Farrington Hwy.
Waipahu, HI 96797
Office: (808) 671-0699
Email: info@westoahuchristian.org
Website: <http://www.westoahuchristian.org>

Pastor - Stan Miyamoto
Editorial Staff - Linda Kunimitsu & Julie Morita

*Please feel free to contact:
Linda Kunimitsu or Julie
Morita about this newsletter
or to submit an article.*