

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.

Reflections from the Mountain Top



*You are God alone
Psalm 86:10*

The Mountain Top

by: Alli Oshiro

As humans we are hard-wired to chase the “mountain-top” experience. The highs from a once-in-a-lifetime trip across the world or experiencing your favorite band live for the first time, there are just some experiences that cannot be beat. Inevitably, the high then dissolves and we are left to come back down to reality.

Mt. Hermon is a mountain-top experience but not in the way you might think. As the ocean reflects the sunlight, Mt. Hermon is where God’s goodness is reflected and we caught a glimmer of heaven-- a reflection of His light. It is on this mountain-top we got to experience true reality--a place filled with His presence and without the normal distractions of daily life. We were forced to slow down, to listen for His voice, and have time to connect with each other. It was the simplicity of being at camp that reminded me our sometimes chaotic daily life should not be reality after all.

As you read this special issue of Heart to Heart, we hope you will see how God met us at Mt. Hermon.

He gave us a tiny peek behind the curtain at the decades of work He has been doing in our lives. He revealed a network of connections that we had no idea existed. He uncovered friendships that span generations. He met us in the stillness and quiet as we walked through the forest. He reminded us that He is with us during every moment no matter how difficult, mundane, or painful.

As we have come down from the mountain top, not back to reality, but back to daily life, we continue to carry with us the countless “God-moments” we experienced at Mt. Hermon.

May you be blessed by these reflections from the mountain top. Enjoy!

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Mount Hermon Reflections

Articles from first-time contributors:

- Amy Miyamoto
- Jason Oshiro
- Skyler & Noah Oshiro



The WOCC Contingent

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

JEMS Mount Hermon Family Camp 2026

by Pastor Stan Miyamoto

By its very nature, every JEMS Mount Hermon family camp is an experience you wish you could save in bottle and take home with you. Each camp helps you to press the pause button on life's pressures, take deep breaths of spiritual air, and discover bonds that you did not know existed in the family of God. Personally, that's why I attend Mount Hermon (MH) whenever I can. It's at MH that I see (again) why Jesus often withdrew from the pressures of His mission to abide with the Father.

You know that feeling of wishing you could have loved ones back home experience what you did? Time and again Amy and I have wished that for our friends and congregants. This year we hoped for God to enable Jason, Alli, Skyler, and Noah to attend MH. We knew that if they were able to attend, experiencing MH would speak for itself, and would be worth more than a thousand words. By God's gracious hand, the Oshiros were able to attend! And God moved! Amy and I are filled with gratitude because God's blessing to them has also blessed us!

Something for Everyone

At MH all are blessed in unique ways and come away with different stories. For me, each morning of camp I joined a dozen others in Stretch & Stride sessions to get our bodies going. Then I led the Morning Prayer time using various concepts about the samurai. Then came an incredible breakfast spread around heartwarming fellowship. All of the morning and evening General Sessions had rich teaching from God's Word. Each message opened our eyes to riches in God's word, and instilled hope in the midst of the times in which we live.

On different afternoons, from a list of seminar topics, I attended two packed apologetic sessions by Dr. Pat Zukeran, a fun missionary meet & greet, and a powerful "movie" about persecuted Christians in Japan. After one evening General Session we were blessed by reminiscent praise to guitar music in the coffee lounge. On another night, empty-nesters enjoyed snacks and fellowship before turning in for the night. One leisurely afternoon a group of friends chatted and shared "new memories" while sitting around the fire pit, marveling at God's awesome work behind the scenes. Many of these experiences are joys we have come to expect, and coming "home" to MH does not disappoint! But sometimes, in the midst of God's abundant presence, God has special surprises for us...

God Moments:

- During the Pastors Small Group sessions I was profoundly touched by deep sharing - the deepest I've ever seen among pastors. In that sacred moment we were moved to tears and prayers for each other.
- While eating lunch and chatting with a man I had first met four years ago at MH, our conversation wandered beyond the superficial into sacred waters of pains and struggles. Our brotherly bond deepened as we prayed and wept, right there at the lunch table!
- During the the fourth morning message of camp, the speaker, Ian Nagata, shared how, before going to India in 1793 missionary William Carey said to Andrew Fuller, "I will go down into the pit if you hold the rope." As Ian recounted those words, in a sacred moment, random pieces of the puzzle in my mind came together for me as I anticipate retirement. Although I'm not the guy to go into the mission field, I see clearly that I'm the guy to hold the rope for others who do.

Experiences at JEMS Mount Hermon cannot be bottled, but they do become a permanent part of who we are. And just as God calls us to come away with Him up the mountain, he also guides us down the mountain, back to a tumultuous and noisy world in desperate need of His peace and a breath of spiritual air. MH shows us that such a peace is real, and is what God wants for us all.



(We are) blessed to be a blessing



Skyler and Noah at Day Camp



Mommy & Noah date in the woods



Koko, Amy, and Stan

Mount Hermon 2026

by Amy Miyamoto

This year the JEMS Mt. Hermon Family camp was very special to me because our beloved Pastor Jason and Alli, Skyler and Noah were also going to go. Stan and I had been praying for them to be able to attend before their oldest son would age out of family camp. God answered those prayers and they were going. Even though we had asked them and they seemed certain they couldn't go this year but maybe next year. I credit Koko Tsuneishi Yee for convincing them to go this year! From day one to see how Skyler and Noah quickly acclimated to Mt. Hermon and making good friends so quickly. Just as pastor Jason stated in his message on Sunday. You have these wonderful deep conversations with people at Mt. Hermon the children also make good deep friendships at JEMS Mt. Hermon family camp. This was the same for our Ruthie and our granddaughter Cheyenne. We had taken Jason to JEMS Mt. Hermon a few times during his youth years at HCC. And now to see Pastor Jason back at this wonderful place with his family, has truly been a blessing that we could have not imagined. It is truly like passing the baton on to the next generation! God is so amazing to bless us in this way!!!

Fun at Mount Hermon

by Skyler Oshiro

Mount Hermon was amazing! I made so many new friends. I really loved the Fieldhouse and all the tournaments. Day/Night Camp was so much fun. The meals and food were all really good. Family cabin time, the Fountain, the creek and the pool were very fun too! Hanging out by the fire pits, and telling people we're from Hawaii was also fun. I have more in my head I want to share but not enough space. I'll say this much more, I hope to see you at Mount Hermon next year!



Obadiah, Isaiah, Noah, Elijah, Skyler

New Friends at Mount Hermon

by Noah Oshiro

I think you guys should go to Mount Hermon because you get to meet lots of new people. It is fun walking alone or walking with your friends to get food at the dining hall. My favorite parts about mount hermon are the people, the fieldhouse, the counselors, seeing all the animals, going to day camp, eating in the dining hall, and most of all singing the worship songs. My new friends are Max, Elijah, Elias, Austin, and Caden. I collected email addresses before camp was done so we could keep in touch.



Max, Skyler, Noah



Koko & The Oshiros



Kevin, Jason, and Craig
God revealing connections



Amy, Michi, Scott, and Stan
OMS Friends



Amy & Stan



Skyler, Caden, Isaiah, Noah, Elijah, Elias



Ice Cream at The Fountain

Life in the In-between

by Pastor Jason

So often in our faith journeys, we find ourselves living in the "in-between." These are those long seasons of silence or uncertainty where we can easily question what God is up to. But this camp was a profound reminder to just keep stepping forward. As we follow God's call, we can trust that He is orchestrating connections far beyond our understanding.

A vital part of that growth comes from the people who pour into us. From our mentors, to the dear brothers and sisters in Christ that we cross paths with along the way. Regardless of age, seeing these generational branches of faith truly felt like a glimpse of heaven on earth—a space where the focus was more on supporting one another in our God-given callings than comparisons of church size and/or dynamics.

We were encouraged by the messages from our speakers, Pastors Ian Nagata and Greg Mah. Here are a few of the most impactful takeaways from our sessions together:

- The greatest blessing we can receive—and give—is the shining face of God. We are called to find our deepest satisfaction in Him rather than earthly security or success. As Ray Ortlund Jr. perfectly captured: "The greatest gift you can give your children is your sense of wonder that the real Jesus loves the real you."
- View peace not as the absence of trouble, but as experiencing God's Kingly presence right in the middle of our distractions. "Attack" our anxiety with humility, supplication, and thanksgiving (1 Peter 5:6-9), praying out of faith and relationship rather than fear and reaction.
- Pursue friendships that provide presence (sometimes just sitting in silence with us), protection, and perspective. A true friend will prioritize God's purpose for your life—even if it means speaking hard truths to get to your heart.
- True rejuvenation requires both physical rest (sleeping, eating, and getting outside into the "blues and greens" of nature) and spiritual rest (practicing Sabbath and focusing on worship).
- Live out the call to see Jesus known, trusted, and adored across the nations (Revelation 5:9-10)

Maybe you're not ready to say you're coming next year! But you can at least start praying about it :) I still can't believe that we weren't planning on going to Mount Hermon this year... I'm so grateful for every person that graciously and lovingly encouraged us to make plans to be at Mount Hermon this year! Seeds were sown, prayers were lifted up, water rained down from above and God made it happen! God is so good! Thank You Jesus! Hallelujah!

So maybe we'll see YOU at Mount Hermon next year! You never know. Amen!



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

Pastor - Stan Miyamoto
Assistant Pastor - Jason Oshiro
Editorial Staff - Alli Oshiro & Julie Morita



*Ian, Alli, and Jason
Friendship 26 years in the making*

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

Psalms 67 (ESV)

SAVE THE DATE

Mount Hermon 2027

July 4-10, 2027

If you're interested in attending Mt. Hermon or have any questions please contact Alli at walkbyfaith142@gmail.com

*Please feel free to contact:
Alli Oshiro or Julie Morita
about this newsletter or to
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