



Proclaiming Christ's Love in Mililani and the World:

# Building For Eternity

Mililani Community Church

Volume I, Issue I

## Calendar of Events

Please mark your calendars for these stewardship campaign events:

### April

Sermon series on our vision as a church: "Living With a Passion"

### May

The mission for our building: Our Master Plan

### September

Home Bible studies on stewardship

### October 9

Commitment and Silver Anniversary Dinner

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## Pastor's Corner

Dear Church Family:

*"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).*

God's Word informs us that as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we are the "people belonging to God" in this community. What a tremendous privilege and calling. And what a tremendous responsibility! We are people with a purpose. That purpose, the Apostle Peter tells us, is to "declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light."

We all rejoice in the Lord's provision of a beautiful piece of property in Mililani Mauka as a new church site.



I don't believe the Lord would have given us this property if he did not intend that we develop it for his glory and the furtherance of the gospel in this community.

Our stewardship campaign is all about maximizing our ministry impact in this community for the glory of God. It is about helping our youth to minister more effectively to their friends and classmates. It's about ministry to the littlest keikis in our nursery, as well as our Children's Church and Sunday School programs. It's about providing a refuge for spiritually hungry and hurting people. It's about having a more permanent place where people can grow

Rick Bartosik, Pastor

in grace together.

During the month of April, I will be giving a series of messages on the mission and vision of our church entitled: "Living with a Passion." My prayer is that over the coming weeks, we will all grow together in a deeper commitment to our calling to love Christ with all our hearts, to love one another as he loves us, and to live fully for his glory – reaching as many as we can with life-changing message of the gospel.

Our stewardship campaign is simply an instrument to help us move closer to that God-given vision.

Pastor Rick

## On Our Knees

**JEREMIAH 33:3** "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

**JEREMIAH 32:17** "Oh Lord God! Behold! Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine out-

stretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee."

As we look toward building our new church facility in Mililani Mauka, the Prayer Committee of the Stewardship Campaign is asking you to reflect on these verses from God's Word and then join us in praying for God's provisions for our church.

Diane Bartosik

Prayer is central to the Stewardship Campaign process. This campaign is spiritual work with eternal implications. All spiritual strides are made in humble dependence on God.

Prayer is asking and receiving; seeking and finding; knocking and opening; all done in faith.

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# Building For Eternity



## Deuteronomy 26:9,10

*"He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now, I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O Lord, have given me. Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him."*

## On Our Knees, *Continued from page 1*

It is through prayer that our hearts are brought into alignment with His heart and we become convinced of the part that God wants us to play.

Our prayer efforts in this Stewardship Campaign will focus on three main areas: 1) mission and vision of the church; 2) need for God's provision in meeting this ministry effort; and 3) the part that God wants each individual to play in meeting the financial and other needs of the church.

Each month, there will be a prayer calendar either in the bulletin or in

the newsletter. We will have prayer walks; prayer vigils; prayer partners, prayer on the property; etc. We need to pray until the impossible becomes possible.

All things are possible when we ask, seek, and knock. Please join us by completing the Prayer Partnership card which will be distributed on April 17, 2005 and by dropping your card in the box, marked **Prayer Partnership** or by giving your card to Diane Bartosik, Chris Matsumoto, Lynn Murphy or Madeline Oliva.

*Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

## The Vision of Our Founders

*Editor's Note: In October of this year, Mililani Community Church (MCC), formerly known as The Church at Our House, will celebrate its 25th anniversary. The following is an article that was penned by Wayne Hamaguchi, one of the founders of MCC, recapping the original vision for the church. Wayne, the former chair of the MCC Building Committee, shepherded MCC through the process of acquiring the land in Mililani Mauka. He went to be with the Lord last year.*

Since its inception in 1980 as an outgrowth of a women's Bible study, the vision of MCC has been to become a bright light for Jesus Christ in Mililani. The original founders of the church believed that God wanted them to come to Mililani to preach the Gospel and be used by God to lead the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. They also believed that God wanted them to build a church where they could be nurtured by fellow believers, held accountable to each other and to God, learn Biblical principles for living a life honoring and pleasing to God, and have their children attend Sunday school.

Under this vision, the church would be a place where downtrodden, sick, weary, lost, heartbroken people would feel welcomed and find warmth, love, and caring. It would be a refuge from the storms of life, where people would find comfort, healing through Christ Jesus, and not be judged or looked down upon. It would be a community of believers, where members supported and encouraged each other in their walk with Christ.

The church would also be a place where people would have the opportunity to discover, develop, and be encouraged to use their spiritual gifts -- a place where people could receive training, become equipped for the work of the ministry, and be eager to do the work of Christ wherever He led us, be it in Mililani, Oahu, the Neighbor Islands, or the farthest reaches of the world.

In 1986, the elders had a vision regarding the future direction of the church. They knew that of the approximately 26,000 people then living in Mililani, only about 2,000 attended church in the community or elsewhere. It was clearly evident that weekend school and community activities competed with and often took priority over

church attendance. The elders were aware that due to the high price of homes in Mililani, both spouses were required to work to meet mortgage payments and that many had more than one job. This resulted in the lack of supervision of the community's children and a plethora of "latch key kids". Despite the abundance of community recreation centers, parks, and ball fields there were no amenities for older children -- a place they could call their own. Many teens could be found at the end of dead end streets, convenience stores, or darkened corners of the community with cigarettes, alcohol, spray paint, or illegal drugs that served as a prelude to a variety of criminal activities. The elders also saw that within our education system, notwithstanding the sterling efforts of a dedicated corps of teachers, Hawaii continued to fall behind the rest of the nation in SAT scores.

Looking into the future, the elders saw that within a decade or two, Mililani would have a substantial "silver-haired" population. The elders were cognizant that while senior citizens are revered in many cultures for their wisdom and knowledge, they are often cast aside and ignored in America. In the Biblical tradition, however,

the elderly are called upon to impart their knowledge and wisdom, gained only through life's experiences, to the youth.

All of this gave rise to a plan -- a bold, daring, innovative plan. This plan entailed getting the Church involved with the social challenges within the community. The end state of the plan was not to have the church solve the social problems of the community, but rather to become involved with the community's social problems as a means to gain access to the thousands of people who had not received the opportunity to hear and receive the Good News. That is, through our lives and deeds, people could not help but be drawn to the love of Christ. Rather than talk at people about the Gospel, we would influence them by modeling Christ in our lives.

The success of this plan lay in the laity of the church. Members needed to be trained and equipped to preach the Word, in season and out of season. In essence, the church would be training an army whose mission would be to win Mililani,