



Proclaiming Christ's Love in Mililani and the World:

# Building For Eternity

Mililani Community Church

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**"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' "**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

More than likely you have heard of Brother Lawrence, the Carmelite lay brother who spent long years working in a monastery kitchen, washing pots and pans and repairing the sandals of other monks—"a great awkward fellow who broke everything." Although he was untutored, his profound wisdom and deep peace drew others to him to seek spiritual guidance. The wisdom he passed on to them, in conversations and in letters, later became the basis for the book, *The Practice of the Presence of God*, one of the most popular spiritual guides of all time.

In *The Practice of the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence writes: "As often as I could, I placed myself as a worshiper before him, fixing my mind upon his holy presence." This is our task as well. But we need constant reminders. Our task is to remember that the Lord is really, really with us, even to the end of the age, or to the end of our age, whichever comes first.

He is present with you, right now, gazing at you with unbounded love. Think about that! Remembering is simply looking back at him and saying, "Hi," or "Help!" or "Thanks" or "I love you too," throughout the day.

He is present with us as a congregation too, as we serve Him together in reaching our community with the Good News – telling as many people as we can about His love for them and what Jesus accom-

plished on the Cross when He died in our place to pay the price for sin; and telling them about the eternal life He offers to all who will simply receive Him as their Savior.

He is present with us as we seek to accomplish our "Building for Eternity" project on the property He has graciously given to us. He has been present in the challenges that have tested our faith, causing us to remember that we must constantly depend upon Him and that "apart from me you can do nothing."

As we enter this Thanksgiving season, let's not forget to "fix our mind upon His holy presence" and thank Him for His faithfulness as we continue to trust Him for His will to be done in the completion of our building project for His glory. Happy Thanksgiving!

**Pastor Rick**



Don't forget those pennies!



The "IN GOD WE TRUST" inscription on each penny is a tangible reminder to save our pennies and trust in God's provision. Penny by penny, even a child can invest in eternity!

## Building Fund Update

by Cori Omura

We are nearing the end of our building pledge campaign and it is a blessing to see how the Lord has continued to provide each year. People have been generous in meeting and exceeding their pledge amounts. Although the church has not kept record of individual pledges, the total amounts pledged each year have consistently been exceeded.

Number of Pledges	Campaign Timeframe	Original Amount Pledged	Donations Received
31	(First Fruits) 2005	28,490.00	31,337.24
44	2006	157,272.00	164,745.52
40	2007	153,442.00	162,202.49
40	2008	250,573.00 <sup>①</sup>	116,302.86
GRAND TOTAL		\$589,777.00	\$474,589.11

<sup>①</sup> Pledges that were not time-designated were put into the final year of the pledge campaign, 2008.

# Building For Eternity

## HI-5 FOR JESUS

by Ray Ballungay

About two years ago, Cori Watanabe wrote in the Building for Eternity newsletter about gathering HI-5 soda cans and plastic/glass bottles for the building fund while walking her family's pet pooch in her neighborhood and getting some morning exercise. During the past two years, I have been doing the same thing in my Wahiawa neighborhood. Our dogs IPO (sweetheart) and ALI'I (princess) and I

get our morning exercise and help keep Wahiawa environmentally clean by gathering the soda cans and plastic/glass bottles along our route. Ipo leads the way. Usually, I pick up three cans or bottles a day. But on a good day I can fill up a plastic grocery bag! Since we started this campaign and with help from relatives, Ipo, Ali'i, and I have donated \$1,100 to the building fund. HI-5 for Jesus!

## Mahalo Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation

By Sarah Tanaka

For over a century the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation has been largely at work providing the people of Hawaii with quality educational resources, children's programs, health facility improvements, emergency relief, and the funding for numerous building projects.

Recognition of these monumental contributions is owed to the founder of this philanthropic foundation, Mary Tenney Castle who established a trust fund in memory of her late husband, Samuel Northrup Castle, an early pioneer missionary to Hawaii.

When Samuel died in 1894, his wife Mary set up The Samuel N. Castle Memorial Trust which accoutered the commonwealth of Hawaii. Mary Castle bestowed an extensive amount of the Castles' assets to unending charity which subsidized welfare, building projects, international relief, and programs abetting in the Americanization of Hawaii's multicultural population.

The year 1925 brought change to the original Trust. It was modified to corporate form and is now the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation. This year the foundation granted our church, Mililani Community Church, with \$25,000 for the planning and constructing of our preschool. The following statements are part of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation's core values.

- \* We respect the rights of all people regardless of social standing, race, color or religious beliefs;
- \* We value modesty, courtesy, honesty, compassion and mutual respect among grant makers and grantees;
- \* We value the basic tenets of liberal democracy, inclusiveness and race-blind equal opportunity. The Foundation cannot support organizations which practice racial, cultural, ethnic or gender discrimination;
- \* The Foundation values grants and programs that benefit children and families in the entire state of Hawaii;

Currently, the legacy of Mary Tenney Castle and her husband lives on in the lives of the foundation's current trustees who remain faithful to their forbearers' vision of Christian stewardship.



## These Boots Were Made for Walking ... Walking for Jesus!

By Cori Watanabe



Baby boomers will surely remember the catchy 1960's tune by Nancy Sinatra that began: "These boots are made for walking, and that's just what they'll do." Somehow that tune (paraphrased "These boots are made for walking, walking for Jesus!") latched onto my mind in August, when Mililani Community Church (MCC) received a grant check for \$10,000 from the Pettus Foundation, an eleemosynary foundation headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Pettus family made its fortune manufacturing boots for soldiers during World War II. Grateful for their blessings, family members established a trust fund and annually donate one-third of the fund's earnings to nonprofit organizations in Hawaii (one of the Pettus family members is buried at Punchbowl Cemetery) and one-third of the fund's earnings to nonprofit organizations in St. Louis. The remaining one-third is divided among the Pettus children to donate to the charity of their choice.

What a wonderful legacy! In a letter to Pastor Rick enclosing the grant check, Mr. James A. Finch III, the Managing Trustee for the Pettus Foundation, directed that the grant be used for planning for an education building. Mr. Finch closed his letter with the following words of encouragement: "Together, we can make a difference." AMEN!  
Thank you Pettus Family!

