



FOCUS

Focused On Christ's Unfailing Sacrifice

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” - Colossians 3:17

Agape Feast

By Kristen Chang

To the untrained eye of a casual spectator, the group that gathered for dinner on February 12,



The Youth at the beach after the Agape Feast

2005 may have looked like yet another crowd to celebrate St. Valentine and the love brought by the arrow of a naked cherub...that is until they started passionately worshipping the Lord through songs, testimonies, and prayer.

The youth of MCC, along with some of their most beloved comrades, celebrated

God's love for us at the affair they entitled the "Agape Feast." It was give this title to remind everyone that our Heavenly Father offers us an absolutely free gift of love, the most complete and pure love ever to exist, and it is our choice to receive it. The night, being a time of reflection upon that love, was very well complimented by the name given

to it.

After a Chinese dinner at Buffet 100, speakers Jennie Wunderlich and Bryan Suzui focused on the role of God's love in our lives as they blessed the youth with their words. Jennie gave her testimony, explaining how God's love freed her from her material, worldly baggage and brought her to a point where she is entirely rely-

(Continued on page 2)

Revelation Sparks Fire

By Sean Takahashi

God uses many different means to reveal himself to man. He can reveal himself through His creations, through his Word, and even through other people. On February 20, 2005, Kalihi Union Church (KUC) hosted an island wide combined worship night. The

theme of the night was "Revelation," focusing on different ways God is revealed. That night, God used multiple ways to reveal himself like the beautiful sunset, but the main venue was worship through music. Every group that led worship that night picked songs

that followed a certain area of revelation. The night opened with worship led by "Closer than Jacob," singing songs related to -



Worshipping at KUC

conscience. Following this group was the Mililani Community Church (MCC) youth worship team, singing songs about God being revealed through His creation. The KUC youth worship team

(Continued on page 2)



Page 2: Soccer Game



Page 3: Spotlight—CJ Wheeler



Page 3: College Spotlight—Justin Knapp



Page 4 and 5: Tsunami Victim Ministries



Page 7: Valentines Day

Soccer Leads to Fellowship

By Hannah Knapp

It's cold and wet, you're soaked from head to toe; but it bothers you by no means, you're having too much fun to care. That's how the annual MCC soccer game was last year, but this year was much different. This

year's game was on January 30th where throughout the morning, rain showers came on and off, but that didn't stop



The exhausted teams take a quick pose after a tiring game of soccer.

the group. The original plan was to play in the field next to the church, but a softball game was taking place.

Instead the game was held at the Central Oahu Regional Park, and it didn't even drizzle. In fact it was quite hot! There was a good turnout, it was the younger guys against the older men with women like usual. The game started with, prayer joining hands and praying for safety and good fellowship. The game went only for an hour and everybody played hard, and safe...well, for the most part. There was one incident when Janice Okimoto, who was on the older team fell into a

hole, and sprained her ankle, thank God that nothing too serious happened. Her ankle is almost healed now. Both teams did their best, and the teamwork and sportsmanship made the game all the more enjoyable. The final score was 4 to 3, with the youth coming out as the champions! For both the football game and now the soccer game the youth have won. What will the turnout be next time? These games are not only to have a good time, but it's another way to be a witness and honor Him in everything that we do. Can't wait to see what God's got in store for the next game!

(Continued from page 1)

also led worship and the KUC contemporary worship team, whose area of revelation was codex and Christ respectively. In between each worship team, there was a short message or activity that related to the different areas of revelation, aimed to further everyone's knowledge of God's character and the different ways people can use to experience God. There was also a short message challenging those in attendance to live their lives for God and to serve Him. Totally in Christ was also there to perform the skit, "The Gift," showing the challenges people may face while trying to witness to their friends, and also the dramatization to the song "Hero," which challenged everyone to reach out to those around them for God.

The next morning, those who stayed overnight at KUC woke up for breakfast and some more worship. This was then followed by an outreach to Kalihi. Some youth went to the nearby Fern Elementary to pick up trash, but the majority challenged themselves with the task of evangelizing to the community. Broken up into different teams, everyone went out into

the streets of Kalihi, witnessing to anybody on the street who was willing to listen. Some were not very successful in leading people to the Lord, but were at least able to plant seeds in the hearts of those they came in contact with. Others, however, had a very fruitful ministry, leading as many in the prayer of salvation. Many of the youth had experience in this ministry, but for others, it was their first time venturing out to serve the Lord in this way. It was a challenge, but definitely an experience that every believer should have, working to expand God's kingdom.

(Continued from page 1)

ing on Him and enjoying the life He has given her with her husband. Bryan shared about the highest form of love, God's love and challenged us to show God's love to those around us.

Following those incredible messages was a relaxing walk along the beach. A light drizzle laced God's creation as the youth admired its beauty in Waikiki and it was the perfect closure of such a beautiful evening. This captivating night gave the youth of MCC a time to fellowship and contemplate the great love of our God.



Totally in Christ

Every Tuesday night, join TNC at the Mililani Middle School Cafeteria from 6:30—9:00 for games, worship, devotions and ministry practice.

It's a God Thing

By Natalie Frazier

"It wasn't hard to accept Christ, but it's actually living that way, where it actually gets difficult," says Curtis Randel Wheeler Jr. (18) also known as "CJ." Through thick situations, and tough trials, CJ has learned an awful lot about what it means to live for God. He attended Kellogg's Spring Camp in Oregon at the ages six and seven, but it was his third year was the one to remember. At the age of eight, CJ became a child of God. "I went forward that night as a child not understanding Christianity, and came back a changed person. I accepted Christ that night, and haven't been the same since."

"My childhood heroes included Superman, Spiderman, and above all, my father," says CJ. Soon after CJ's salvation was a moment embedded in his heart forever; the rededication of his father's life to Christ. "That was probably the defining point in my Christian walk. Seeing him in a good state with God and beginning to

make changes encouraged me to continue with my spiritual walk."

With the strength of God now in his father's heart, CJ and his family started to depend on God with all they had. The summer of CJ's 8th grade year was a test of faith and trust in God. "We sold everything that belonged to us, excluding our clothing, and hopped on a plane. We moved 3000 miles away from anything familiar, with only a week to find a house and buy a car." CJ's father had a new job lined up for him in Hawai'i, and limited time to find their home necessities. The search was frantic, but as always, God provided in his perfect timing.

The roller coaster did not end there. God revealed and challenged CJ's heart even more so throughout his high school career. Being home schooled prior to high school made for an interesting transition when he went to public school. "Where I went wrong in high school was probably where I started to trust myself more than I trust

God." Due to major events in high school, CJ's outlook upon his relationship with God changed significantly. "God has His own way of rattling everyone's own cage."

God has shown him a lot about loving and caring for others, especially by providing him with a wonderful and supportive family. CJ, the oldest on nine, has been blessed with two biological brothers, three adopted brothers, and three adopted sisters. His adopted siblings have been through a lot of things in life, that has opened CJ's heart to understanding their situations and where they come from. "I understand that if it doesn't happen to people, then they'll never know. You can never have victory without a battle before. No one ever feels that they've accomplished something unless there was a struggle getting there. They've taught me how good life is, and how much God has given me," says CJ. "It makes me realize, to hear what they've been through, that my life rocks."

College Student Spotlight: Justin Knapp

By Sarah Tanaka



live by this verse? Well, Justin Knapp is one of those people. And speaking of verses, his favorite verse is Philippians 1:6. It says, "...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to the completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Justin said it is his favorite verse because God is continually working on his life. He also wants to glorify God in all he does and help others to do the same.

Being a sophomore at Biola University, Justin's challenges are to rely completely on God, and to be a true friend. If He could make one wish, he said it would be to have a constant inner peace. While Justin is not

studying, he is watching a movie, hanging out with friends, playing guitar, video games, or listening to music artists such as Switchfoot, Lifehouse, or the Christ Tomlin Band. He also enjoys playing a variety of sports, but his favorites are football and volleyball. Not only does he play them, but he also loves to watch them.

One of the highlights of Justin's life so far was his mission trip to New York this past summer. He enjoyed working together with the youth from our church, seeing old friends, and witnessing to the children there. Now you have a basic background of Justin, and if you want to learn more about him, why not ask him a few questions?

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Theses are words fit for all Christians to follow, but how many of you try to

“I know my testimony has a lot of people in it, but it took a lot of people to get me where I am today.” CJ has recognizes all that God has given him, and is looking forward to all that God has in store. Because of the great love that God has supplied, CJ has taken every opportunity that has been given, and has been very grateful for the support given from his family, fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and most importantly, God.

CJ is excited about the plan God has for him. He is joining the military to serve his country. “I look at what America is,” explains CJ, “and I realize that it’s the best county in the world, founded by God himself. Maybe people don’t respect that; but it’s true.” With all of the amazing things God has provided CJ with, he doesn’t take for granted the things that God has taught him in his past. He’ll always keep in mind the lessons learned, and the struggles of getting to where he is today. His eyes are fixed on God, and all the remarkable things that are awaiting him in heaven. When CJ looks back on all the things he’s been through, he states, “it’s a God thing,” because God is the only one who has the strength CJ needs to get him through tough circumstances. Without God, all things are without a solution.

Ministry Amidst Destruction

By Tee Swan

Eight hundred thousand people lost their homes and every worldly possession. Take, for example, if all of O’ahu was completely devastated without warning and everybody on the island lost their homes and all they owned. How would you share with someone that has nothing? How would we be able to start over if we had absolutely nothing?

Sri Lanka is such a place. Of course they weren’t the only country and peoples that were decimated from the December 26, 2004 tsunami, but, for sure, they were severely and permanently impacted as a result. Dr. George Rhoades recently heeded the call to the share his life and be the open Bible to the people that have incredible losses. As a trauma psychologist, Dr.

Rhoades knew that times of grief and loss are sometimes the most important and vulnerable in a person’s or family’s life. With the general restrictions about directly sharing Jesus Christ openly, he used the opportunities God opened up to be a witness.

In partnership with Global Hope Network International and Campus Crusade for Christ, Dr. Rhoades was the first psychologist to come, to share, to help. Those affected need closure and others actually providing some services needed training. God opened so many doors during the trip,

not the least was the national Director of Health giving Dr. Rhoades approval to minister freely.

Reflecting back, if all we owned and so many we knew and loved were forever erased, God loves us so much that there is physical and emotional relief and hope. Thank you, Dr. Rhoades, for your heart and God’s






Totally in Christ and Mililani Community Church youth and leaders are excitedly preparing for their summer mission to St. Petersburg, Russia. While there, the team will help run a camp for the youth of St. Petersburg, training them to use their talents to reach the community through drama, sign dance, hula, and other venues. Please pray for this team as they prepare to serve the Lord in Russia. If you feel led to make contributions to this mission, please contact Dr. George Rhoades.

Quickies



- On February 13, 2005, members of Totally in Christ worked the BBQ booth at the Pro-Bowl in order to raise funds for their upcoming mission to Russia.
- Each Friday night, guys of TNC are given the opportunity to work out in 24 Hour fitness for an hour. Following each session, they take turns leading a devotion.

Fellowship Club Promotes Passion Drive

By Natalie Frazier

With all of the chaos that comes along with being a typical high school student, like working rapidly to get math assignments done and papers turned in, there is also an eagerness among those who have their hearts and minds set on God, to serve God. The Fellowship Club plays an important role when it comes to being an example at Mililani High School. One of the major responsibilities of a Fellowship "clubber" has been fixed on demonstrating one's heart of Christ, by living and breathing for Christ, and sharing it.

"...that we have a heart for the people, just as Jesus commanded us to love each and every one."

Due to the drastic affair that struck Sri Lanka on December 26, 2004, the Fellowship Club recognized their opportunity to serve God. The Fellowship Club was given a task that was not only simple, but fun to work on. Because of the amazingly large population of Mililani High, students are daily consumers when it comes to soda and juice machines. The Fellowship Club saw it as a good opportunity to collect the empty bottles and cans, cash them in for money, and send off the donations to Sri Lanka.

Students in the Fellowship Club purchased trash cans at a local home improvement store, and received a donation of paint, to paint the trash cans. These vibrant colored trash cans

will now be the eye catcher among those passing. The Fellowship Club entitled this task of God, "Passion Drive" to demonstrate a Christ-like compassion.

"It's really awesome, because I think it just shines through the entire Mililani High School and other schools too," says Landon Ajimura, Sophomore Student Support Leader at Mililani High, "that we have a heart for the people, just as Jesus commanded us to love each and every one."

Fellowship clubbers have also made the commitment of volunteering to make sure the trash cans are taken out each morning, and put away each afternoon. They are also collecting the cans ever so often, to make sure they do not get too filled.

"It's good that they (the students) take the initiative to do good for others, and do not have to be told, or receive a reward for it," says Jason Tamura, the adviser for Fellowship Club. "That they willingly, -- on their own, by their own choice -- go and do good things for other people that they don't even know."

"It's to reach out and help people in Southeast Asia who were hit by the tsunami," says Ashleigh Payne, President of the Fellowship Club. "Hopefully it's a big impact on loving others, and taking care of each other;

doing just as Christ would."

Prayer Officer Kevin Deming, explains how he feels about the impact the Fellowship Club is making in the school. "They are giving all the Christians on campus an opportunity to fellowship and grow close together, to help support their walk; and also to reach out to all the fellow students around them."

"It's really great for kids who are just seeking the Lord's face, to come and be active in this," says Ajimura. "It's a really great opportunity for them to grow in their faith, and grow in their positions as Christ wants them."

To demonstrate the Christ love that is in one's heart, one must live it, seeing as others will be continuously watching your actions. The students at Mililani High are taking on this task, in hope that they will show others how much they care, and how much Jesus cares.

Deming hopes that others will see, "that we (the Fellowship Club) are loving, and caring, and we have a good time too. We can be godly and still have fun."

If you are interested in supporting the Mililani High School Fellowship Club by donating empty beverage bottles or cans that are capable of being cashed in, please contact Gary Okimoto.



March Youth Event: Jungle River & Ronnie's

What: Miniature Golf at Jungle River and Ice Cream at Ronnie's

Who: Mililani Community Church Youth and Friends

When: March 26, 2005 @ 5:30pm

Cost: \$6.50 for Mini-Golf + Money for food at Ronnie's

Song of the Month: “Black Canvas”

By Natalie Frazier

It hasn't hit the charts, nor has it been on the radio. In fact, the only person who has heard the Song of the Month besides myself, is Jesus Christ.

While writing this song, I wanted to express my affection for Jesus, my thoughts about all He's done for me, and how he has worked in my life. I wanted to explain my love for Him through words; however when doing so I feel that Jesus spoke about His love for me instead.

When writing “Blank Canvas,” and listening to the words repeatedly, it occurred to me that because my life was so broken I could never be as beautiful as God. However in God's eyes we are beautiful, because God takes the shattered pieces of our lives and forms them into a new piece of art work. This new picture an abstract mosaic; each color and shape



portrays the good things in our lives according to God, and how He worked through us within each piece. God has revealed to me that He takes our shattered selves, and transforms us into something beautiful; something reflecting His image-if we let Him.

The title “Blank Canvas,” is not in the lyrics but symbolize our lives. We are the blank canvases, and we should surrender ourselves to God. By allowing Him to do His will in our lives, He paints something far better than this world could ever attempt to accomplish. Nothing compares to the beauty of God, and nothing compares to the beauty He puts into our paintings. The colors He selects are the colors that are reflected in the canvas of our lives.

“Blank Canvas”

Written By Natalie Frazier

*You paint the sky with no paint
You light up the stars with no fire
You give your promise to me,*

*And it shines faithfully
And I hear your whispers through the air
and I see your grace fall at my knees
and my mouth is running out of words*

*Because my heart can't describe what
You're worth
You're beautiful
Beautiful, so beautiful to me
Beautiful, beautiful, and it's beyond
belief*

*Beautiful, beautiful, and I'll never be,
Beautiful, beautiful,
You're so beautiful to me
You see the colors of my heart
And you paint a beautiful picture*

Challenge of the Month

By Gary Okimoto

“But the Lord said to Ananias, ‘Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.’”

~Acts 9.15-16

According to the World Book Dictionary, worship is defined as something you consider very precious, hold very dear, and adore. How do you worship God and what is worship to you?

Did you know that 70% of all of your communication comes from your body language and not from what actually comes out of your mouth? In the Book of Acts it talks about a man

named Saul, who persecuted many Christians. One day Saul was on his way to persecute many more Christians when he saw a bright light that blinded him. Then he heard a voice from above asking, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” Saul replied, “Who are you, Lord?” “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.” For the next three days Saul was blinded because of that amazing light and he did not eat or drink. God sent a man named Ananias to pray for Saul. Scales fell from Saul's eyes and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. Later he grew stronger and more powerful; through his new actions he proved that Jesus was the Christ.

When I lead worship, it is a time where I choose to worship God. I am no more a worship leader than you are

because all that I am really doing is worshipping God through an instrument. You are truly the one who leads yourself into a time of worship of God. Ananias chose to worship God by obeying his command to obediently visit the dreaded Saul and pray for him. Saul, later known as Paul, became one of the leading examples on how to worship God in his everyday life. He was also persecuted for his beliefs in Jesus Christ later on in his life. The challenge for this month is to lead yourself into a time of worship daily in all that you do, whether it is at work, at home, while reading the Bible or in anything that you do. Your worship to God can impact other people's lives.

Different Forms of God's Love

By Janice Okimoto

Happy Valentine's Day, affectionately known as Happy Singles Awareness Day to others, this is a day to commemorate lovers or eat as much chocolate as you can. But Valentine's Day can also be a day in which we can remember God's love for us. The *agape* love that He has for each of us, which drove him to sacrifice his one and only Son on the cross. John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world (you) that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

One of the greatest loves you can feel for another is friendship (*Phileo*). In John 15:13, Jesus talks about the power of a friends love in saying, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command." Valentine's Day can also be celebrated as a day of

friendships. Friends can be the family that you may not have. They pick you up when you feel down, make you smile, listen to your woes, and make you feel loved. It has been said that friends are God's hands in your life. "Love one another deeply, from the heart." I Peter 1:22.

Eros (romantic love) is the love that you feel for your significant other. In this day and age, romantic love is abused and taken too lightly. The gift of sex has been horribly distorted by the media. Wedding vows are made, and then broken. "Till death do you part...or until you reach the first hardship" seems to be the way the world views marriage. Joshua Harris is the best-selling author of the book called "I kissed Dating Goodbye." He also wrote a follow-up book called "Boy meets Girl," where he discusses courtship. Harris defines courtship as,

"the special season in romance where a man and a woman are seriously weighing the possibility of marriage." Or in other words, dating with the specific intent of knowing if God would have a couple marry. How special it is to have God write your love story, then to take it into your own hands? After all who better to write the story than the one who created love and is the very epitome of the word?

"Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong, love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth. It always protects always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

~ 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Building a Ministry

By Hannah Knapp

In 2002 the Lord open doors for Mililani Community Church to buy a piece of property in Mililani Mauka. During the building committee process of designing a three-phase project of our church facilities, many activities have already been held some activities on the property. There were camp overnights, a community block party, and even an Easter Sunrise Service. The members have asked Steve Johnson from the EFCA Ministry Campaign Services to help us with the Stewardship Campaign. The Communications Team's responsibility is to keep the congregation informed, on the plans and ministry opportunities. On January 20th, the congregation was given a questionnaire, on what their visions are for our future, as well as a theme for this campaign. This is a great

ministry in which the youth can take part of, such as, recycling "HI5", collecting extra change, and just being a willing volunteer. While the theme, and other aspects are still falling into place, please uphold this in your prayers. God has granted this congregation with this property to do His will, and reach out to those in the community.

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." - 1 Timothy 6:18-19

FOCUS

T-Shirt Design Wanted

The youth group is in the process of designing a new t-shirt to fit their new theme—FOCUS. The youth will vote on the shirt design on March 13, 2005. If you would like to submit a possible design for the shirt, please submit it to Sean Takahashi by that date. The design should include: FOCUS: Focused on Christ's Unfailing Sacrifice, the theme verse—Colossians 3:17, and anything else you think would be appropriate for the design.