



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

Golf Your Way to Ronnie's

By Natalie Frazier

The Mililani Community Church's (MCC) youth group *FOCUS* and a few others whom joined the fun, spent their Saturday, March 26th 2005 by setting off on an adventure through the jungles



Hannah and Natalie overwhelmed with excitement!

and rivers of Pearlridge. In squads of four or five, each team set out on a mission to accomplish 18 amateur-miniature golfing holes. The turn-out for the event was superb,

with at least 35 people. All who came could not resist enjoying each other's company with shouts and screams of excitement, for the rare hole-in-one or the laughable hole-in-20.

Once the task of completing all 18 holes was finished, they set off for their next mission; a dinner at Ronnie's. Invading the

restaurant was an easy task, but finishing the food and ice-cream was difficult for a few. However, even though having had large portions of food didn't seem to stop a few from eating off of other people's plates. The evening was nice, and the company of others was grand.

Before the event
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“HE IS ALIVE!”

By Sean Takahashi

When Easter time comes around, many people automatically think of the Easter Bunny, the Easter Eggs, and candy. While there is nothing wrong with that, the word Easter has a much deeper meaning that should never be forgotten or overlooked. It is the time Jesus paid the ulti-

mate sacrifice by giving his life on the cross for our sins, but more importantly, rose from the grave to prove that he was indeed the Son of God. During the Easter season, believers should put extra reflection on what Jesus did for us. This year, the youth decided to take

advantage of this special time, and put many of their ideas on how to bring the congregation into deeper worship into action. Not only was the youth given the opportunity to lead worship at both the Good Friday and Easter services, they used their other talents to minister

to people. On Good Friday, the service included three special presentations by the youth. First, there was a sign dance to “The Love Song,” by Third Day which was choreographed by Hannah Knapp. That was followed by a drama titled

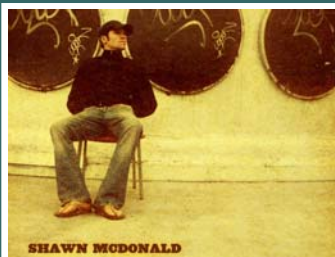
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“And Now He’s Gone,” that follows the reaction of different people to the death of Jesus. This flowed directly into a slide presentation that allowed the congregation to reflect on their own image of Jesus and remember what he did for us.

Easter morning rolled around, and many braved the cold morning to worship God with the sunrise at the church property. Ben Wunderlich also gave a short message on the way God changed, and continues to change lives through Jesus



Row 1: (L-R) Sean, Chevy Row 2: Nate, Rachel, Janice

Christ. The men then prepared the annual breakfast for everyone to enjoy before the service. During this service, the youth presented another drama called “Three Witnesses” that follows three individuals as they realize who Jesus actually was. They also performed another sign dance to the song “Weight of the World” by Glassbyrd that was choreographed by Alisa and Dayna Wong. Probably the most memorable portion of the service was the worship time.

Borrowing an idea from the EFCA Youth Conference in Salt Lake City this past summer, items were made available to lie before a cross. First, there were hearts to represent the hearts

of individuals who do not yet know Jesus. Second, there were rocks used to represent the burdens people bear in their lives. Third, there were pieces of reflective paper to remind people that they should see Jesus in themselves when they look in their reflections. As each person placed whatever items they felt led to leave at the cross, they gave those prayers up to God, hopefully surrendering whatever that personal prayer was. It was an incredible experience as many people in the congregation made that personal decision to place one or more of those items to at the cross. Hopefully, these services were memorable a chance for them to remember all that Easter means and thank God for everything He has done, and will do for us.

Soaring On Wings of Eagles

By Gary Okimoto



gain new strength and be able to soar and never getting tired or weary. On Monday April 4th when Mililani High School returns from break, they hope to spread the word of God while they soar on wings like eagles across their campus.

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had taken place, the group joined in the parking lot for a small devotional. The message was simply that though we may all be labeled as “Christians,” does not necessarily mean that we are all acting Christ-like. By the youth group’s events such as a night out on the town once a month, or weekly bible studies, help to bring the brothers and sisters in Christ closer together, providing a bond that can strengthen the relationship with individuals and Christ. By the end of the night, the mission of God was accomplished: “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” -Ephesians 5:21

The Fellowship Club poses for a final picture before they leave

“Soaring” the theme of the 2005 spring Fellowship Club camp. This camp was the second largest Fellowship Club camp in the history of all Fellowship Club camps. There were a total of 72 people who attended a camp filled with great fellowship, crazy disgusting group games, awesome worship, and an amazing challenge from the five YWAM guest speakers. The challenge came from the theme verse of the camp: Isaiah 40:31. The Fellowship clubbers learned that they need to wait on the Lord because it is only in His perfect timing when they can get things truly done His way. They also learned that through this wait they will be able to





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.

Words of Comfort

By Natalie Frazier



Any testimony is a blessing when it comes from one who has believed in Jesus since they can remember. Sarah Tanaka, 13, has been a child of God since the age of four, and has learned throughout the years how to be in a deep relationship with Christ.

Sarah comes from a family with two strong Christ-parents, who have raised her in an environment where she can easily grow in God by doing family devotionals, or simply comforting her with words. Sarah made the decision with her mother to accept the Lord, and explains that when accepting God, she learned that “God loves me, and He wants me as His child and I need to make a decision before it’s too late.”

Along with a supporting family, there were also friends who influenced that encouraged Sarah to improve for God. “It was Kristen (Chang) because it seems like she speaks her mind, and that’s something that I’ve always wanted to do; not to be afraid to share what I’m thinking.”

“I have a hard time sharing my faith; I’m very nervous,” explains Sarah. “Somehow God brings a song into my life, like at TNC or Church, and that song reminds me how I need to act as a believer, or I just open up my bible and find a scripture, and God just shows me what I need to do and how to share my faith.”

“He’s helping me be myself around people, because I’ve been having

a hard time doing that. I’ve been reading scriptures, and I’ve just been feeling in my heart that I need to be myself.”

Sarah has been learning a lot about God, and what it means to be godly, by the doors that have been opened for her to express herself in different ways. A lot of what God has displayed to Sarah, has been about living a life for Christ, and learning how to be the self that Christ has given her to show the world her dedication, compassion, and love for God.

One of the most important things that have recently taken place is that Sarah’s beloved grandfather, Grandpa Joe, has accepted the Lord. Being a new believer, he has very much motivated Sarah to be more of a child for God, and to have faith when things seem impossible. With the help of God, anything can happen.

“He always seems to give me the right scripture, and reminds me of how good He is.”

Being a believer in Christ for such a long time doesn’t seem to stop the blessings that come from God. Sarah explains that God is really awesome because “He’s always there when I’m in trouble, and if I’m feeling left out, or if I’m feeling different from other people, He always seems to give me the right scripture, and reminds me of how good He is.”

“I would encourage people to be themselves around other Christians, because those Christians are just their brothers and sisters in Christ who want to help them in their Walk with God.”

With the Sarah’s strong background, and strong heart for God, the devotion for Christ has become more and more fearless. Step by step, and little by little, Sarah has been able to make strong decisions to stay on the path of God and to understand that she is His child, and He is always there to comfort her in times of need.

Challenge of the Month

By Gary Okimoto

What weighs your life down? Who’s reflection do you see in that mirror: yours or Christ’s? Do you know people in this world who need Christ? These three questions are all questions you could have asked yourself at the Easter service. During the service, the answers you pondered, embraced and even desired to abandon could have all been left at the cross. When Christ died, He took our pain, our sin and even framed our future. On Easter, we were reminded of God’s promise and the purpose of our relationship with Him. Our goal on this earth is to be as much like Christ as we possibly can be. Daily, we need to abandon our hearts, wills and lives to Him...but the weight of the world often drains the power of devotion and causes us to feel that I can only trust in myself. Jesus died so that we would see that it is not by the power of my own that I can get to God or utilize His power, but that our lives need the leading of the Holy Spirit to be the witnesses to the world (Zech. 4.6b). Abandonment is the opportunity to lay my life, my concerns and my sin down... Jesus, I need You! My Lord, I have got to have You!

The challenge of the month is this; whatever you left at the cross leave it there. Leave it all in God’s more than capable hands. Leave those sins, leave those burdens, and leave the salvation of others in Christ’s capable hands. He has made Himself more than available to you no matter when, where, or how you are.

Coming Soon!

**Summer
VBS...**

**See Pastor Steve for
more details.**

Song of the Month: "Simply Nothing"

By Justin Williams



Last week was awesome, not because there was the most people I've seen at our church, but because the Holy Spirit was there. At this year's Easter service, the congregation was challenged to leave various items at the cross, representing different prayers they had. The first people to go to the cross were visitors. It was a great day because we were shown how much God loves us by sending Jesus, His only son, to die for us.

The day before Easter, I bought a CD that one of the workers recommended I should listen to. I've

never heard of Shawn McDonald before, but when I listened to the sample, I didn't understand why he wasn't better known. The lyrics are what stand out the most, but his music complements the words very beautifully.

The song that impacted me the most is called "Simply Nothing," which is the name of his album. This song was written to try and picture what its like from our Father's perspective. It really shows how much God puts up with and how much we hurt Him, but he still loves us. He still calls out our name to be with Him. The biggest question is "what are you?" We could have everything in the world like money, a house, cars, friends and whatever you desire, but you will still be empty unless you learn true love. You are simply nothing. God's love is so big that we can't fully understand it unless we learn of His love.

We all learned God's love, but there are so many people who don't. If you truly love God, then you will share His love with those who don't know and feel like they are simply nothing.

"Simply Nothing" Shawn McDonald

So hard to fathom the pain in Your eyes
As You're watching Your children, do-
ing what You despise
In pursuit of our own
We just go round and round
Another nail to our cause
We continue to pound
**What are you, man, if you do not
learn love**
**What are you, man, if you do not
learn love**
So hard to fathom, oh, the feelings in-
side
As You're watching Your people choos-
ing to die
You called out a warning
To all that would hear
Saying come to Me, come to Me
And I will draw near
Learn love
I must
Learn love
Learn love
Learn love
Learn love

Devoting a Night to Worship

By Tee Swan

A victory cry, a hope. A vision and most certainly a command...but worship has set the captives free. Not only a dream, but a promise of God's supply, His answer to our need and the protection by His Spirit...worship becomes the embodiment of truly seeking our Lord. Jesus commands us to love, to serve, and to trust; worship draws us into His presence to listen and refocus. With the passionate worship organized and prepared all week-end...Good Friday and Easter Sunday,



the youth of TNC also continued yearning for more of the presence of the living and loving God. Many regulars and guests witnessed the revitalization of the quarterly worship nights at TNC on Tuesday. Seek God and surrender all to Him. Worship is the vehicle...will your heart and life be that

worship? With a full Easter weekend, the TNC worship night was the whipped cream and cherry on the sundae. Please come and join us next

Totally in Christ

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

Strumming for Jesus!

By Hannah Knapp

Plans, prayer request, partnerships, and purposes, are all on the minds of the members of the stewardship committees. As MCC just celebrated another Easter sunrise service on our property, we've taken another step to reach out to the community by giving out invitations door to door to join us. There are so many others things that still need to be discussed and planned, finances and ministries to organize. This is another way that God wants us to give everything up to Him and trust Him.

While Pastor Rick will be giving sermons about this opportunity, the youth can also be doing their part in furthering this vision. In this up coming month we can be collecting pennies and extra change as fundraisers. As we all know engraved on each penny is the statement, "In God we trust" we can use that as a reminder in every aspect of our own lives. We as apart of God's family should trust our Heavenly Father with even the little things. During this campaign even though as important as they

are, finances are not the main goal. The purpose for this property is to further God's kingdom, in Mililani and the world. Pennies as small as they are, are a great way to remind us that our walk in the Lord is a step by step process. Each one takes us closer to our goal.

Trust in the Lord, with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. - Proverbs 3:5-6



Karaoke!

When: Saturday, April 16
Where: HMC Karaoke
Time: 1:30-4:00PM

Limited spaces available! See Gary Okimoto or Sean Takahashi if you're interested. (Potluck style)

Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed

By Steve Knapp

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not to be ashamed - accurately handling the word of truth."

It is a Christian club for kids and teens (ages 3 through the 12th grade). Its focus is to learn the Word of God through Bible lessons and Scripture memory work, along with a few other assignments as well. Indoor and outdoor games and refreshments are involved.

There are many Awana clubs all over the USA and around the world. On our island there are perhaps two dozen clubs meeting in different churches.

MCC has the goal of having its own club when the facilities so enable it to happen. Many of our families are

currently involved in the one at the Waipio Community Baptist Church in Waipio Gentry. Our MCC kids and parent helpers contribute much to the success of the club.

In a recent island wide Bible Quiz event for Middle and Senior High students, a team of 3 junior high girls from our youth group took 4th place (about 20 teams were involved - some from very large church groups). We all were very proud of Sarah Tanaka, Tina Uyeno and Hannah Knapp for their accomplishments. They said that they could have even done better if they had had more time to "study up." Our high school team was represented by Nathan Knapp and other kids from WCBC - they did not place in their competition.

Dues are required (\$.50 a week towards club expenses), and uniforms are available. Prizes are regularly awarded for reaching various milestones (like: completed work books, scripture memory, attendance, bringing friends, etc.).

All young people are welcome to come. The club meets from 6:30 to 8:00 PM on Friday nights. Call Pastor Steve for further details or ride information

"Train yourself to be godly. Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

-1 Timothy 4:7-8.