

The Family Herald

Christmas 2011

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“Giddyup Horsey” on the Ranch

By Tiffany Yamamura



Young ranch hands

On a nice fall morning, we drove up to Waimea on the Big Island, to visit Mr. and Mrs. Pung’s ranch. They graciously invited us so we could experience ranch life and ride the horses. When we got there the horses were not in the corral, so Mr. Pung had to round up all the horses. Mr. Pung chose a special horse that was well trained. The horse didn’t have a name so we all named him Brownie since he was brown. Mr. Pung taught me how to pull the

reins to steer Brownie. He also gave me a small whip to pat him on the butt to go faster but I felt bad doing that to Brownie. But Mr. Pung said “You can do it to show him who’s the boss.” Then the boys had a chance to ride Brownie and they looked like real cowboys. Mr. & Mrs. Pung told us that they have turkeys, goats and cattle on their ranch. We weren’t able to see any of them because it was raining. But we got to see the

place where they brand the cattle. We’re so thankful to the



Mr. Pung helping Luke

Pungs for their kindness. It was a great adventure for all of us! Yeeha!!

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Highlights of 2011

- Luke is a 2nd grader and is thrilled that his 4 front teeth came out this year.
- Owen has maintained a better diet and exercise routine.
- Gracie no longer refers to us as “Ah!” but calls us by name.
- Josh is a big boy kindergarten and started reading!
- We enjoyed camping, camping, & camping!
- Our 5th grader Tiffany is better at speaking Japanese than Dad & Mommy.

I wanna go AWANA

By Luke Yamamura



Every Sunday we go to AWANA and say our verses and play lots of games. I like to get my jewels and badges, too. The AWANA leaders help me with my memory verses and if we say all of our

verses Daddy takes us to Wendy’s for a frosty. The best part of AWANA is to play games but before we do games we do Bible time. I learn more about Jesus and all about the Bible and

that’s important so I can stay close to God. My favorite verse is Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

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MCAA Champs

By Luke Yamamura

When I first started playing basketball, I was kind of nervous but then I got even better after I practiced. My Dad is my coach and he helps me practice in the afternoon. I have to do very hard drills for basketball like rebounding and shooting baskets. For rebounding you have to catch the ball when it comes down so that you can score for your team.



Luke getting the rebound

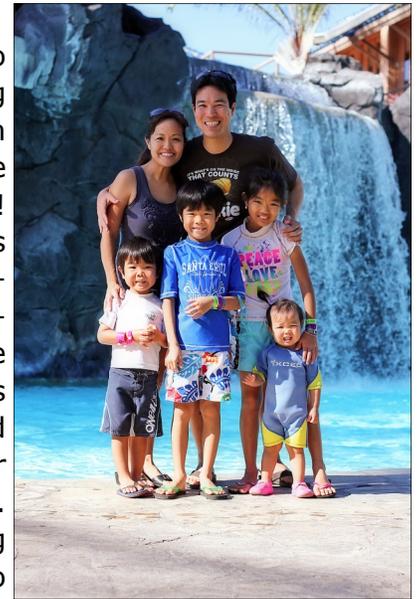
The best way to shoot baskets is to kneel down, jump high and aim it for the middle of the basket. To score baskets good you have to practice everyday! I like basketball because I get stronger and can learn more about my favorite sport. One day I want to be someone who can make a slam dunk like Pistol Pete.

Waikoloa here we come!

By Tiffany Yamamura

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After the ranch, we headed out to Hilton Waikoloa. It was a really long drive that we fell asleep. But when we got to Waikoloa we were wide awake and ready to have a blast!! My favorite part of Waikoloa was swimming in the pool and going super fast down the slide. Luke enjoyed lining up his army men in the sand. Josh liked doing cannonballs in the Jacuzzi. And Gracie loved lounging on the pool chair with her shades on, eating her snacks. Daddy's favorite part was drinking Kona coffee and mommy loved to take a LOT of pictures. We all thought riding the boat was awesome and had such a blast at Waikoloa! We thank God for protecting us and hope we can go again next year!



Baptized in Christ

By Tiffany Yamamura



At our annual church camp, I was baptized by Pastor Jason and Daddy in the cold waters of Mokuleia beach. I made a decision to follow Jesus and that's why I wanted to get baptized to symbolize my faith in Christ. It was really cold that day and I was nervous but I knew that I was doing the right thing for God. I'm so thankful that my family and friends were there to support me. When I went down in the water and then came back out of the water it was like God gave me a clean and fresh start. It was even more special because my Dad was able to help baptize me. I was also blessed to be baptized with my good friend Grace Wintill.

Since the baptism, I'm trying to be a strong follower of Christ by praying more and spending time with God. I pray that God will give me strength everyday to do the things I have to do. I thank God for all the people and things He has blessed me with.

***The Lord Himself goes
before you, He will never
leave you nor forsake you.***

Deuteronomy 31:8

The Village of Hope Uganda

By Tiffany Yamamura

The Village of Hope (VOH) is a place for the orphans in Uganda, Africa who need love and support. Our family is helping to sponsor a young girl named Joyce. She and her brother Peter live at the village and have grown a lot there. Joyce loves to dance and she lead the girls in a Music & Dance competition and won first place in May. She also leads morning worship and the girls look up to her. She is a smart, hardworking student and will soon graduate from the primary school. Miss Cindy shared that the last time she saw her, Joyce said, "When I first came into VOH I didn't know one word of English." But today because of her hard work she can interpret her language Acholi to English and English to Acholi. Joyce is a very brave girl because since the LRA shot at her she has a scar on her head. But she said, "I love my scar, because it reminds me that God saved me for a purpose."



Joyce and the other children need a lot of prayers



Joyce with VOH Director Cindy

because they need to start building Village #2 by the end of the year or else they'll have to go back to the refugee camp. They appreciate your prayers and they still need to raise more money otherwise they may lose the whole village. We are praying to God and know that He can do a miracle! If you'd like to learn more about the Village of Hope they have a website (villageofhopeuganda.com) with more information. When I think about Joyce, I am encouraged because the village of hope children are really eager to learn more about God and enjoy their education. That makes me really thankful for what God has done.

With GOD all things are possible!

Cannonball Josh

By Joshua Yamamura

I like to swim in the pool. I like to catch the ball in the pool. I go down down down in the water and I find it then I jump up with it! When I was two I didn't know how to swim. Now that I'm older and four, I'm brave and say "Cannon ball!" and jump in the water but Daddy catches me. If he's not there I paddle and go to the wall and hold it and then I get out of the water and I jump again and again and again until we eat lunch. Then after lunch we

eat yummy yogurt from Yogurtland then I have to take a nap. And then the next day



Joshua and the ball

we go back to swim and then that's it! Swimming is so great and so much fun in the whole wide world!

The End!!

MAKE 'EM LAUGH by Josh



"Daddy, you're the best omelet maker. Tiffany and Mommy are the best rice makers. Gracie is the best smile maker. And Luke & me—we're the best trouble makers!"

An Exclusive Interview with Princess Leia (aka Gracie)

Interviewed by Joshua Yamamura



Josh: Who are you?

Gracie: "buke ah Sacie" (Luke's sister, Gracie)

Josh: How old are you?

Gracie: "Tu" (actually she's still 1)

Josh: Why are you wearing that?

Gracie: "Mama eweeeahmu"

Josh: Oh, I see...mommy made you wear that for Costume Carnival. Who did you go with?

Gracie: "Zosh" (Josh)

Josh: Who is your favorite friend to play with? What do you like to do?

Gracie: "Zosh...dah say" (Josh...dance and sing)

Josh: Who is the coolest dude and can say his numbers super fast?

Gracie: "Zosh"

** Editor's note: Gracie says "Zosh" for practically everything

Daddy and Tiffany's Chicken & Broccoli Stir Fry

One afternoon, Daddy and I decided to make a healthy, chicken stir-fry dinner. We found a great recipe on You-tube ("startcooking") and would like to share it with you.

Ingredients:

3 Chicken breasts—cubed Green onions
Broccoli—florets Red pepper 1 chopped
Garlic 3 cloves minced Ginger 1 T minced

Sauce:

1/2 c. chicken stock, 2 T shoyu, 1 T corn-starch, 1 T oyster sauce, 1 t sesame oil, 1/4 t chili paste

Stir fry cubed chicken—set aside. Heat garlic & ginger add broccoli & red peppers then green onions. Add 1/4 c stock and steam vegetables until tender. Add cooked chicken and add sauce. Cook sauce then mix over vegetables & chicken. Serve stir fry with cashew pieces. Enjoy!!

A note from the Yamamuras

We are so thankful for all of you, our family and friends! Over this past year, we were reminded to trust God in all circumstances. The Lord's mercy and goodness was shown as so many of our loved ones faced health challenges. Granny Yamamura continues to remain strong in the Lord as she now resides at a care home after a severe hip injury. San's parents were diagnosed with various forms of cancer, but by God's grace it was brought to their attention in time for successful treatments. And Tiffany continues to trust that God will help her with frequent headaches. In all of this, we have peace because we know that God is in control and that He will work all

things together for His good. Our prayer for you and your family is that 2012 will be filled with God's goodness and peace.

With love~

Owen, Sandy, Tiffany (10), Luke (7), Joshua (4) and Johanna Grace (almost 2)

