

# THE FAMILY HERALD

## Mexicali Missions by Luke Yamamura

In October, my family and I went on a missions trip to Mexicali, Mexico. We arrived late at night and drove for almost three hours before crossing the border. The next morning, everyone got their energy back and we headed out to help a church run a Vacation Bible School. We got to talk with the kids and tell them about Jesus and share our Hawaiian culture. We played games and helped them make bracelets and paper leis during craft time. Later, we did a street outreach to those who were either homeless or who immigrated to Mexicali. We prepared food and juice for them. While we were passing out the burritos, some of us shared the gospel through a translator and

sang songs to the homeless. The missions base that we stayed at was still under construction so we helped them build part of their soccer field.



We also did a youth event with teenagers from an orphanage called "A Way Out." Teenagers from this orphanage had been kicked out of at least four other homes and this place offered them one last chance. On the final night, we got to serve and encourage nearby community pastors with a special dinner and a night of worship. I enjoyed being a part of uniting the local pastors as they faithfully reach out to their communities. I hope that I can return to Mexicali next year and once again serve with the missions team. I can't wait to see how things will change by the power of God.

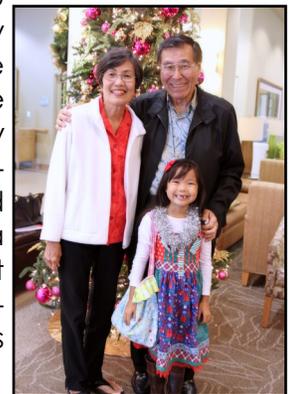


## The Joyful Singers by Johanna Grace Yamamura

"Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way!" That's one of my favorite Christmas songs and the Joyful Singers sang it at the Craigsid Care Home. The Joyful Singers are a group of Seniors from my church, Leeward Community Church. My Grandpa and Grandma were also singing with us. We sang a lot of songs and



sang some of them in Korean, Japanese, Chinese and Hawaiian. They asked me to do a solo for the song "Happy Birthday Jesus," and I said, "Yes," but I was nervous. After it was all done I got to meet this nice lady named Aunty Dorothy. She just moved in one week ago and looked sad because she didn't look like she had any friends. When she saw me she wanted to hug me so I hugged her and then she looked really happy with a big smile on her face. I'm glad I got to be a part of the Joyful Singers because I like to sing and my dream is to be a singer for God one day.



## 2017 Highlights

Tiffany is a junior in high school and has been enjoying Youth Leadership events and photography classes.

Luke our 8th grader likes challenging dad and Josh to basketball and enjoys building Lego kits.

Josh is in the 6th grade and is so excited to have his own little garden and likes playing basketball.

Gracie our 2nd grader is always reading and drawing. She loves to sing worship songs and dance to classical music.

Coco has made new friends in the neighborhood and enjoys getting treats from neighbors & the mailman.

**Mighty Hurricanes** by Joshua Yamamura

Devastating winds, trees falling, people screaming in terror! You may be wondering why I'm talking about these things. This past semester we learned about hurricanes in our science class. To help us better understand how hurricanes form and how to prepare for them, our teacher Aunty Cheryl set up a field trip to Hawaii News Now television station. Guy Hagi and Jennifer Robbins explained how they track hurricanes and report weather forecasts. We saw how news-casting works and got to watch a live news report. Mr. Guy Hagi even let us test out their green screen which is where they project all their cool images of the weather.

I learned that hurricanes form near the equator where the warm moisture rises into the air. The high pressure areas push into the low pressure areas which turns into more warm moisture. Then it rises to the top and it repeats until it develops into a hurricane.



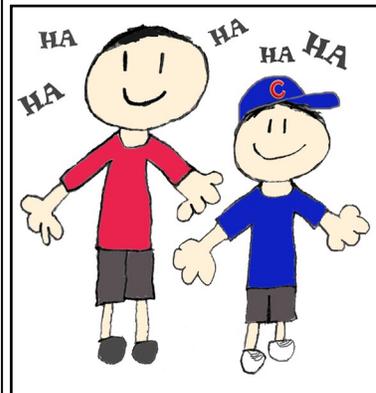
It is important to know about the hurricane categories so you can be better prepared and know whether you need to evacuate or not. Category 3, 4, and 5 are the dangerous hurricanes that you need to be worried about. Category 3 wind speeds are between 111-125 mph, category 4 is 130-156 mph and category 5 speeds are 157 mph or

higher. The recent Hurricanes Irma and Maria are examples of the devastation of a category 5 hurricane. Hopefully, we never have to



experience a category 5. But just in case, Hawaii News Now has an awesome checklist of things you need, to prepare for a hurricane. Here are a few things in that survival kit: \*Bottled water at least one gallon daily for 3-7 days \*Non perishable foods for 3-7 days \*High Energy packaged foods/peanut butter/crackers \*Water purification tablets \*Generator \*Flashlights \*Sterno cans \*Waterproof matches \*First-aid kit.

**Josh got Jokes** by Joshua



"Hey Luke, ready for some jokes?"

1. Why can't you have a nose that is twelve inches long?
2. Why can't you play hide and go seek with a mountain?
3. Why do Mexicans not cross the border in groups of three?

(Do you give up? Answers on p.4)

**Making Friends in Mexicali**

by Johanna Grace Yamamura

I was so excited to go to Mexicali and so happy to serve with other people to share the Gospel. Before we went I was practicing some Spanish like "este plato" and "si" and I could also count *uno, dos, tres, cuatro*. I was a little bit afraid that the kids would tease me because I didn't know their language. Even if I didn't speak any Spanish it was ok because I could still com-

municate and make friends. I met a nice girl named Valerie and her nickname is Zee Zee. We talked to each other with words and hand motions and had so much fun together. We are now BFF (best friends forever). After that day, we went to a homeless park to do street ministry. We picked up all the rubbish and made it look nice. Then we served the people juice and burritos. They said "thank you" and they were really happy. I met this really nice lady named Anna and she was sad. My mom asked if we can pray for her and sing songs with her like "Jesus Loves me". When I went out there to help people I felt really happy. After we came home, my daddy asked, "Who wants to go back to Mexicali next year?" I raised my hand and said, "I do!!"



## Dude Time by Luke Yamamura

The day came for our Leeward Community Church Father and Son event at a camp site in Waianae. My Dad, brother and I were so excited to have our own time together bonding with other fathers and sons. We played volleyball, sang worship songs and listened to a message by my friend Aaron and his dad. During the craft time, we built a mini cross together. We wrote on a small piece of paper our promises to each other as father and son and placed it inside the cross and sealed it. After one year we will open the cross and read the promises we made to each



other. I enjoyed getting to eat the delicious hamburgers and barbecue chicken that my grandpa had prepared. I appreciate my Grandpa because he put a lot of time into planning this event, when he could have been relaxing. The 2017 Father and son event was memorable with all the activities we did together. I'm thankful I learned valuable lessons which will prepare me for my life journey ahead.



## Seven Days Without Running Makes "One Weak"

by Tiffany Yamamura

"Haha! You're too funny. I would NEVER run that far!" was my response to my dad when he told me that he signed me up for the Honolulu Marathon. I watched both my dad and brother train long hours and run two marathons, but I vowed to never in my life do such a horrible thing. Unfortunately, I had come to the realization that dad was serious. I would not be allowed to get my driver's license unless I agreed to run. "What kind of father would do this to his own daughter? Mom, there must be something you can do." I thought to myself, "I guess I have no choice. After all, how hard can it be." I realized how wrong I was when the first day of training started because I was ready to quit on mile one. Obviously, running was not passed down to me. However, I continued to train - three short runs during the week and one long run on the weekend. I dreaded every single moment of it and often prayed that it would rain or that I would get sick, but for some reason, God always allowed me to run. Finally, after five long months of anxiety and torture, the day of the marathon arrived. Adrenaline rushed through my body as thousands of people crowded at the starting line. The fireworks shot up and before I knew it, we were off. I felt the rush of energy from other runners beside me as well as from those on the sidelines cheering us on. In the beginning, I was able to keep a steady pace; however,



when I had crossed mile nine, my legs cramped up and my feet felt sore. I was not going to stop, after all, I didn't train for nothing. So with the encouragement of my dad, I kept going. I couldn't help but smile every time I passed each mile marker, because it

meant I was one mile closer to finishing. I know the prayers of family and friends carried me throughout the run. Hours and miles passed by, then I saw it - The finish line! It wasn't my imagination, it really was the last mile. With whatever energy I had left, I raced to the finish line. I did it! I ran a marathon and didn't die! I thank the Lord for blessing us with perfect, cloudy weather during the run and the energy and endurance to finish. There were so many times I wanted to give up, but I'm glad I didn't because I learned I truly can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. In the race of life, we may feel weak and want to quit, but that's when we need to rely on God the most to sustain us to cross the finish line.



**Nationals in Minnesota** by Tiffany Yamamura

This summer, I was blessed to have been accepted to the speech and debate national tournament in Minnesota, along with two good friends, Mary and Danny. I was eager to visit a new state, as well as compete with hundreds of students around the country. I competed in 3 events: impromptu, apologetics, and informative. Impromptu and apologetics are both limited prep events. In Impromptu you speak on any random topic and in apologetics, you respond to questions that help defend the Christian faith. Informative on the other hand, is a prepared speech written on any chosen topic. Since we are required to memorize our speech, this was by far my favorite event because I was prepared before hand. The first day of tournament arrived and I was very anxious. I didn't know what to expect or who I would be competing against. But with the help of our amazing speech coaches, we were ready for the challenge. To my surprise, there was a very supportive atmosphere at the tournament. The mission statement of the league is to

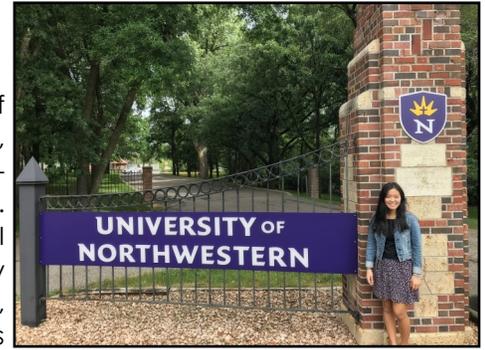


bring God glory through everything and it was heartwarming to see that portrayed in the people there. One day, as we waited outside the competition room, another student, Katie came up and asked if she could pray for us. God revealed to me how impactful even a little act of love may be to a person.

**My Mega Tomatoes** by Joshua Yamamura

One sunny day, my grandma and grandpa Sukita came over to drop off my tomato plants that they propagated. I was so excited that I immediately put the tomato plant into a bigger pot using the extra soil my grandpa brought. I named my plants Bob & Jerry. Grandma gave me some fertilizer called Miracle Grow and told me to put 2 tablespoons every month. After about 2 weeks, I picked the first harvest of tomatoes and the tomatoes were HUGE!! Grandma asked me "Wow, how did it get so big?" Here's a little secret I learned in science: plants take in carbon dioxide and humans breathe out carbon dioxide so every morning I talk to my plants and breathe on them.

One of the challenges for me was when Bob got some kind of plant disease so I had to remove the whole plant and clear out the soil. Luckily my grandma had an extra tomato plant to replant. Now Bob, Jr. is doing way better and bearing more fruit! I learned that growing plants isn't easy. It takes time and perseverance.



After days of speech rounds, the time for finals had arrived. Unfortunately, I did not qualify as a finalist. Yet, I had no regrets because I know my hard work did not go to waste. I learned so much through competition and gained new skills through observing other students. I was impressed by the level of speakers which inspired me to work even harder for next year. Although I was a little sad that I didn't do as well as I had hoped, I was honored to have made it to nationals and grateful for this awesome experience.

**A new season in Aiea**



It's hard to believe that nearly seventeen years ago, San and I were newlyweds moving into our first home in Mililani Mauka. We never imagined

the lifelong friendships that would follow and the precious memories of raising all four children on Hoakula Street. In January of this year, we prayerfully decided to move to Aiea Heights.

"Thank you" to all of our family and friends who helped us with this big move. It was difficult leaving our life in Mililani, but we are thankful to God for this new chapter.



God blessed us with a home closer to both of our parents, our church and the company office. Our desire is to have this be a place of gathering where friends, family and even visitors can always "hang out" and be refreshed. If you are ever in the area please drop by. As we celebrate this first Christmas in Aiea, we think of you and wish you all a blessed holiday season.

With Love,

Owen, San, Tiffany (16), Luke (13), Joshua (10) & Gracie (7)

Did you get it? Ha ha ha!  
 Josh got jokes answers: 1. Because then it would be a foot.  
 2. Mountains always 'peek' 3. Because it would be tres-passing