



# THE FAMILY HERALD



## Community Service

by Luke Yamamura

Since February of this year, my Grandpa, dad and I have been serving in our church's community food distribution called OPP - Ohana Produce Plus. This program is a partnership with Leeward Community Church and the Food Bank of Hawaii. One Saturday a month we get to help individuals and families who have been struggling financially to get much needed food and supplies. We start early in the morning to help set up tents



and tables. Then we help unload the Food Bank truck and bag all of the produce with canned and dried goods to distribute to nearly 200 individuals and families. As the cars drive to designated areas we serve bags of food to people from all over the island. It's great to see their friendly faces and hear them say "thank you." I felt good knowing that all of our work was making a difference in the lives of people and their families. It got me thinking about how thankful I need to be and how blessed I am because God has always taken care of our family and provided for all of our needs. Serving in OPP has really opened my eyes to the importance of being compassionate to the needs of others. In addition, it was really cool working alongside my grandpa. He is a great role-model for me of what it looks like to put others before yourself, work hard and always do things with a positive attitude.

## Music Maker

by Grace Yamamura

I started playing piano at the beginning of this year because I always wanted to try something new and I love anything music related. I love how music can flow from your fingers and fill the room with joy. My brother Josh and I signed up for Chuck James Music School, where we have lessons on-line every week. When I started my first piano lesson I had no idea what to do. Luckily, my teacher, Ms. Emily is very kind and funny and she takes the time to help me learn. She patiently waited for me to understand the basics of how to play the piano. My favorite, but also most challenging, part of playing piano was keeping the right tempo. But since I've been



practicing, I feel more confident in playing different songs.

Over the course of my co-op school year, I've also learned how to play the ukulele with my classmates. Aunty Marsha and Aunty Steph have been teaching us fingering and music theory which is great because I've been using the skills I learned from piano to put it together for our co-op class. I learned how to play *Happy Birthday To You* and *Amazing Grace*. For our music assignment, we had to pick a song and perform for the class. I decided to play the song "*I Don't Know My Name*" because it's about someone finding their identity. It reminded me that my identity is in Christ and not by what people may think of me. Now, I am very excited to play new songs on the piano and ukulele!

## Highlights

Tiff is now a junior at Calvin and values her experiences at the university speech clinic. She enjoys singing in the Calvin Gospel Choir and going on wilderness hikes.

Luke is a senior and has been concentrating on his school work and projects. He continues his fitness routines and runs throughout the week with dad.

Josh is a sophomore and enjoys going to the beach and playing volleyball as much as he can.

Grace is now a middle schooler and has been learning about photography & design (she helped mom create the new look of our Family Herald).

Coco is enjoying lots of naps and short walks around the neighborhood.

## IMPACT by Tiffany Yamamura

"Time passes in the blink of an eye!" It wasn't until this year that I experienced this in my college journey. It felt like just yesterday, when I arrived at the Michigan airport with my dad, overwhelmed with nervousness and excitement for my new life at Calvin. I remember walking up to the orientation registration table absolutely shaking. I recall being too scared to say hi to anybody and waiting for my dad "Mr. Aloha" to introduce himself. I can still relive the joyous "hellos" with newfound friends, as well as the dreaded "goodbye" as dad returned home. Fast-forward 2 ½ years, and I'm back at orientation, but on the other side of the registration table as a leader! This summer, I had the privilege of volunteering as a leader for the same orientation I attended called IMPACT. This is a special orientation that Calvin designed for students of color in America to welcome them into the community and to guide them in adjusting to their new life at college. This was one of the most rewarding events I've participated in at



Calvin, as I had the opportunity to view the heart behind the program and the purposes of the many activities I participated in as a freshman. Instead of simply receiving, I was now empowered to pour back into the program and to assist in facilitating a memorable experience for our new Calvin families. My supervisors challenged me to grow out of my com-

fort zone and trained me to prepare lesson plans for my students, create bonding activities, lead small group discussions, and share my story of cultural identity to the entire freshman cohort. I thank the Lord for blessing me with such a special group of freshman students. Each of them brought such a unique joy and richness to the group, and I appreciate their vulnerability and openness to new things during orientation. I vividly remember the first morning, while checking in one of my students, the student's mom started crying. She explained that she was not ready to say goodbye to her daughter and that it was going to be a difficult parting experience for their whole family. At that moment, I understood their exact feelings. I could picture my mom crying as her mom cried and shared words of encouragement from my own difficult airport departure. This was one of the sweetest moments during orientation, as I felt like I was viewing a "younger me" and had the privilege of using my story to encourage the beginning of her's at Calvin. Moreover, I am beyond grateful for the team I served alongside. Each team member worked extremely hard and poured their whole heart into their students. During all of the laughter and pains of planning, our team became like family! I am forever grateful for this experience, as I formed such meaningful friendships and unforgettable memories! I'm looking forward to serving again next summer!

## Grandpa Sukita's Helpah

by Josh Yamamura

This past summer my grandpa Sukita had knee replacement surgery and needed help with doing day to day things. Since we live three minutes away from my grandparents house, we went over as much as we could. We would help with a variety of things, such as picking avocados, planting grass in their backyard, laying a section of carpet in their laundry room, and making a small cement walkway. Not only did we get to help



our Grandpa and Grandma, but along the way we learned different skills and made memories with family. One of the skills Grandpa taught me was how to lay cement. We started off by putting wood forms around the area we were going to put the cement in. Then we opened the bags and poured the cement into a big bin, we slowly added water and mixed it until we had the right consistency. We

poured the cement mixture into the forms and once we finished pouring the cement, we used a trowel to smooth it out with an edger for a nice finish. After we were done with the work, Grandpa said to put the "finishing touch" so we wrote our names in the cement. Whoever walks over it will see our beautiful handiwork. Grandpa Sukita is doing much better now. He is going to a physical therapist and is determined to gain back his strength and do the things he once did. We pray for his speedy recovery. It felt good to help my grandpa who I once depended on for help and now I'm able to repay him in this small way.



## Puggies & Huggies

by Grace Yamamura

Since I am now a middle schooler, I've moved up to the Junior High Sunday school class called Trek. Because I'm older I am now considered an "LIT," which means Leader In Training, and I get to help in a ministry called Puggies. Now you may be wondering if I'm working with kids or dogs. No, LOL I'm working with kids (although I would love to watch doggies, too). I joined not only because I get to serve with my friend Phoebe and Aunty Melinda, but I just love little kids! They're so adorable and they are like little



teddy bears you want to squeeze. I just can't help but smile when I see them—they're cute, they're funny, and are always full of energy! As soon as you walk into the Puggies room, it's filled with joy! I always wanted to help with the LCC (Leeward Community Church) Kids since I was nine. While working with the

kids I've learned that it takes patience and a lot of love. I also learned a lot about teamwork - I think Aunty Melinda, Phoebe and I make a great team and we help to teach the kids lessons about God. This has also taught me more about Him and I truly feel like I have grown a lot more in my faith through serving in Puggies. When I watch the Puggies and see them grow it's totally worth it. God has really grown me in patience, faith, and kindness (now I know what my parents had to go through teehee). At first we only had a few little Puggies in our class but now new families are starting to come to church so we have more! I am very happy for this opportunity to be an LIT helping these little kids grow in God.

## Cooking up some Jokes

with Josh

Hey guys! This year I thought it would be cool to not just share my hilarious jokes but to share an awesome recipe! I make this Pad Thai Shrimp dish a lot for my family. I included a copy of the recipe for you - hope you like it too!

*Three friends are going out to eat, one wants to eat Thai food, another wants Mexican. The third friend is the...*

*Thai breaker!!*



## Leeward Community College

by Luke Yamamura

This fall semester I had the opportunity to take a couple of classes at Leeward Community College, which were Psychology 100 (an online class) and Math 103 (an asynchronous class). At first, taking two college level courses while keeping up with my homeschool classes, was a little intimidating, but I was ready for the challenge. I can remember the feeling I had on my first day of class for Psychology. I felt super nervous and anxious. I didn't want to make a mistake in front of the whole class. I wasn't even sure I could keep up with taking notes and hearing the entire lecture. But to my surprise, I enjoyed my classes and I did pretty well. It has been a good experience to interact with classmates who are older than me. I learned a lot in my



psychology class about the different temperaments and how it can affect the way we think and behave. For example, an extroverted person may be more expressive and creative while an introverted indi-

vidual may be quiet and reserved. I learned how we can appreciate a variety of temperaments. This information helped me understand how other people may view things and how they may feel. I know I will be better prepared to communicate and connect with those who have very different temperaments from me. My Math 103 class was an asynchronous class (no zoom lectures or in person classes for the entire semester). I was responsible for reading through the textbook and completing all of my homework assignments on my own. On a side note, this was exhausting and draining, but I stayed committed throughout the entire course learning long formulas and solutions. I had a hard time comprehending how this would apply to my life, but I realized it was testing my mental endurance and it helped me process things logically. I'm looking forward to taking more college courses next semester.

## Global Missions ~ His hands and feet

by Tiffany Yamamura

This fall I had the honor of attending the Global Missions Health Conference with about thirty other students from my university. When we arrived, I was shocked by the amount of people and by the size of the venue. The conference was hosted at a church but it felt bigger than the Hawaii Convention Center! Bright and early each morning, we attended several breakout sessions, as well as worship and prayer sessions. During each session, I could sense the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit, as the speakers described the joys and trials of sharing the love of Christ around the world. It was transformational to meet people from Kenya, Honduras, Ethiopia, Myanmar, and many other places and to hear how the Lord is moving through their ministries. While listening to their testimonies, I realized just how enriching it is to live a life of success in the Lord's eyes. Throughout the conference, I was continuously inspired by the healthcare worker's passion for sharing God's love to those in need. These mighty warriors understood that caring for the physical illnesses of their people could open the door to caring for their spiritual burdens as well. It was truly a meaningful experience to see how surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, dentists, and many medical professionals enhance the Kingdom through their training. This inspired me to contemplate further how God envisions me to utilize Speech Pathology for His glory and to pray into the call He has

for my future. The scripture Jeremiah 17:7 says, "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose

confidence is in Him." This Bible passage beautifully portrays what it means to truly thrive. True thriving is when you are rooted in the endless flow of God's love and guidance. When you have a never ending source to seek confidence in, you do not need to be fearful when challenges arise, for your source will never run dry! This verse has been a daily challenge for me, as I realign my priorities with His and pray into His purposes for my life. I want to reach out and help those in need and be used to make a difference in people's lives. During the concluding session of the conference, the speaker said, "You now know too much to not do anything at all." This is so true. I have yet to discover what that "anything" is, but I continue to pray for wisdom and I look forward to the next steps ahead of how I can be "His hands and feet."



## Drummah Boy by Josh Yamamura

This year, I started taking drum lessons from Chuck James Studio. The two main reasons for this was because I enjoy learning new things and I wanted to be able to use this skill to help serve in our church. When I first started, it took me a while to understand certain beats and styles of playing, but my teacher did a really good job at explaining ways to pick up the beat. As I progressed, I began to experiment and play drum covers for various songs. The most recent songs that I learned that have a really good beat are "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor and "I thank God" by Maverick City. In the beginning of my lessons, I didn't want to put in the time and effort to get better, but now instead of thinking of practice as a chore I really enjoy playing the drums. The cool part about my digital drum set is that there are so many possibilities like changing the sound that each type of drum can play. The best part of it is that I can plug in my headphones and it doesn't drive my family crazy! Even though I have learned most of the fundamentals, I still have a long way to go and I'll continue to have fun playing this new instrument. I encourage everyone who is reading this newsletter, to try and experience new things.



## Blessings in 2021

Each new year is a gift from God and 2021 was no exception. He cared for us with good health and provided for our daily needs. He blessed us with all of you, our family and friends, who have been an encouragement to us. God also gave us new opportunities to experience the joy of serving others. As we remember the words of the Lord Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). It has been good for our family to rearrange some of our priorities and find joy in serving family, friends and our community. We wish you the gift of joy and peace this holiday season!

With Love,

Owen, San, Tiffany (20), Luke (17), Josh (14), Grace (11) and Coco