

# THE FAMILY HERALD

## Yamamuras in Japan by Tiffany Yamamura

During spring break, we had the opportunity to go on a family trip to Japan. Our Auntie Deb and Auntie Hitomi graciously helped us find an air bnb and planned outings filled with excitement and fun. Everyday was a new adventure and always started off with a quick stop at our favorite "pan" shop. We visited many interesting places like the Osaka Museum of History and Eiga Mura Studio Park. We met really nice people, ate delicious authentic Japanese food and saw beautiful landscapes with early buds of sakura. One specific adventure that was most impactful was when we went to Auntie Deb and Auntie Hitomi's church ~ Kayashima Christian Church. We sang worship songs in Japanese and delivered a Hawaiian Sunday School lesson to the children. Each person shared one section of the Gospel Lei presentation to explain God's hope of salvation. Auntie Deb and Auntie Hitomi were skilled translators and I enjoyed trying to interpret the few Japanese sentences I could understand. After we finished speaking, we helped each child make their own gospel



lei and had so much fun interacting with them even with our limited Japanese. It was such a blessing for me to have the opportunity to witness to these children and to encounter God's love in a different country. We felt so blessed by the church's care for our family. They welcomed us with open arms and I discovered that the whole church had been eagerly awaiting our arrival. They had been praying for us even before we left Hawaii! I absolutely loved being in Japan, not only because of the delicious food and beautiful sights but also because I was able to experience the Japanese culture and form unforgettable memories with family.



## 2019 Highlights

Tiffany is now a freshman in college. She enjoys waking up to snow every morning and going on adventures in Michigan with her dorm friends.

Luke our 10th grader has gained interest in health and fitness. He just completed another marathon with dad.

Josh is in the 8th grade and continues to try new plants in his garden. He keeps the family supplied with fresh basil and green onions.

Gracie our 4th grader loves dancing & singing her heart out for the Lord. In her spare time, she loves drawing "kawaii" characters.

Coco continues to enjoy short walks and visits to Grandpa & Grandma's house. She always comes to greet us with her happy barks.

## Mighty Mochi Pounders by Josh Yamamura

Every year we have a Yamamura Family reunion. This year, instead of going to the beach, we went to Auntie Audrey's house to pound mochi. It was a great experience and I learned how mochi is made the old fashioned way. I also got to see family members I haven't seen in awhile. The process of making mochi is long. The number one thing you must do before anything is wash your hands and clean any utensils you're going to use. Next, you get the mochigome rice and soak it overnight in water. The next day you put the rice in a wooden box called a "Seirou." Then you place the Seirou on top of a stove that has a heated bucket of water, which creates steam that heats up the rice. After



cooking the rice, we placed the mochigome inside of a stone mortar called an "usu" which is shaped like a bowl on the inside. Usually two people pound the mochigome using wooden mallets called "kine." To keep an

even consistency a third person flips the mochigome while it is being pounded. They do this until the rice has a nice soft texture. Many of the aunties gathered around to form the hot mochi. They pulled golf ball sized pieces of mochi and flattened it to add the azuki bean inside. They wrapped it up and pinched the corners to seal it nicely. It is a lot of work, but I enjoyed being around everyone in the process and of course eating the fresh mochi. was the best part of all!





## Castles, Samurai and Ramen Noodles

by Johanna Grace Yamamura



I was really excited to go to Japan to visit my aunty Deb. On the first day we went to visit the Osaka Castle. All the girls dressed up in beautiful kimonos but the boys said "No way am I going to do that!" We even wore these cute shoes called "geta" It was kind of hard to walk in but our Aunty Hitomi who is from Japan taught us how to do it. It took us really long to walk up to the castle but it was worth it because when we went to the top there was a beautiful

view of Osaka. We also got to ride a boat in the moat of the castle and saw all of the old stones they used to protect the castle.

On another day we went to an amazing ninja and samurai park in Kyoto. We learned a lot of the history of Japan and I thought it was so cool because I'm really a person that likes to explore and learn new things. During our time there, we watched a samurai play and when they asked for volunteers I quickly raised my hand. The samurai taught me how to pretend to fight with the sword (don't worry it wasn't sharp). I was kind of shy at



## A Fishing Trip to Remember

by Luke Yamamura

This past summer, I went fishing with my grandpa, dad and brother. We all woke up early and drove to Haleiwa boat Harbor, where we launched my grandpa's zodiac. After only ten minutes of trolling, my grandpa felt a tug on his pole, reeled it in and ended up catching a one pound papio. I was so excited and thought for sure we were going to catch a lot of fish today. Sadly, from that point on we were not getting bites or tugs on any of the poles. Hour after hour passed as we road the boat. All I could think about was how sore my arms, back and bottom were. Just when it



seemed like we weren't going to catch anything else, my dad suddenly felt a tug. He reeled it in and caught our second papio. Joshua and I got excited again! We kept at it hoping our fish would bite soon. Suddenly, Josh's pole started to

first but then when I fought the samurai it was so much fun!

The next day, Aunty Deb took us to the Cup O' Noodle museum. We learned that in 1958, a smart man, named Mr.

Momofuku created instant noodles or Cup O'Noodle. It was during war time and people needed food fast! My favorite part was when we made our own noodles from scratch. We mixed the dough and then we had to flatten it using a rolling pin. Then we rolled it really thin in the crank machine. My poor brother dropped his so he had to start all over again! Back to the subject...after that we put it into another cranker to make skinny noodles. We weighed it carefully to be 5 g and then they fried it. We put it into a package that we designed on our own and took it home to eat. I had the best time of my life in Japan and I hope I can go back again one day!



## Make 'Em Laugh by Joshua

In honor of the new Star Wars movie -The Rise of Skywalker — here are some cool jokes!

*What is Yoda's favorite car?*

*How hot does Darth Vader like his coffee?*

(Answers are below but only look if you tried really hard!)



Drawing by Grace

bend, he reeled in another papio. Now it was all up to me. There was no way we could go home unless I caught a fish. We turned the boat around and headed back to the harbor. I kept waiting and hoping and praying, "God, please give me a fish, I need one badly!" I wasn't going to go home empty handed. To my surprise, I felt a strong tug on my pole. I started reeling in whatever was on the end of my line. I couldn't believe it. I caught my first papio. It was a moment I will never forget. As they say, "good things come to those who wait."



Yoda's favorite car is a "Toyoda"  
Darth Vader likes his coffee "Luke-warm"



## Becoming a Man by Josh Yamamura

This past January my dad and I went to Hilo for our Passport to Purity. If you don't know what Passport to Purity, it is a time for a father and son to talk about guy and girl relationships. We got to go to the top of Mauna Kea, eat delicious food, and learn about how to stay pure. We did many cool activities to bond "man to man" and have lots of fun. As a gift, I received a koa wood ring which reminds me of a promise I made to stay pure for my future wife and guard my heart. The journey will be tough but I know through God's power and strength I



will succeed. Later we went to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park where we saw the Kilauea Crater. It was really fascinating to learn about how the volcanoes work. The

volcano specialists are monitoring the volcano's activity and I pray that it does not erupt again.



One thing I learned during our man time is not to fall into peer pressure. Peer pressure can make you do things that you know you should not be doing. It is important to have good friends who will influence you the right way. Proverbs 13:20 says "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise but the companion of fools will suffer harm." The lessons were good, but the part I really enjoyed was spending time with my dad.

## My First Semester in College

by Tiffany Yamamura



This past year has been a whirlwind of changes for me! In June, I completed a huge milestone and had the privilege of graduating from high school with one of my closest friends! I was overwhelmed by the amount of love and support from my family & friends and could not be more grateful to the Lord for blessing me with such a caring ohana. As summer days slowly faded, I truly experienced the value of time and cherished every single day with loved ones before leaving for college. Before I knew it, the day to depart had arrived. I

cried waterfalls while giving goodbye hugs. It was one of the most difficult things for me to step onto that plane; yet, I had a peace that God was walking alongside me and that He had already prepared a place for me in Michigan. Upon arriving at Calvin, I began orientation and God immediately provided me with amazing friendships within just the first two weeks. It felt like I was at a fun summer camp... until the first day of school arrived. Although I was elated to embark on a new academic journey, it took me quite a while to adjust to the intense rigors of college life. It has been interesting adapting to a new culture, saying "Mr. and Mrs." instead of "aunty and uncle" and speaking proper English. I remember the first time



I said "da kine" in front of my friends, they looked at me a little funny. It has been enjoyable sharing with them the Hawaiian culture and now one of their favorite foods is kakimochi and they often use the phrase "da kine." Throughout my first semester in college, I truly experienced God's faithfulness. My biggest fear coming to college was that I would not have good friends. Yet, God miraculously provided me with an amazing roommate and a wonderful group of girls in my dorm. He has also blessed me with a small group at Ada Bible Church, who have become my Michigan family. I'm beyond grateful to the Lord for surrounding me with strong brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage me in my faith. I also deeply appreciate everyone of you back home! I definitely experienced times of home-sicknesses and loneliness. But I am thankful for every single text, facetime call, care package, and prayer from my aunties, uncles, and friends. Each little act has been a tremendous encouragement to me and I have undoubtedly witnessed the power of your prayers during my first semester at Calvin. God is so good and I can't wait for the new adventures He will bring next semester.

**B.U.C.s** by Luke Yamamura

Usually for guys who are my age, it can be quite a struggle to live a life that is right and pleasing to God. Thankfully for me I was able to join a young men's group called B.U.C.s (Brothers-Under-Christ) which some dads started for guys my age. Currently, our group consists of four dads and four sons. We usually meet during lunch on Sunday. While we are eating, we talk about how our week was - one high and one low. It's good to simply discuss things we're going through in life. In fact, we go through an accountability checklist of questions that my dad gave to us. We try to be very transparent with each other and share things that we struggle with but in a safe environment. It is not awkward or uncomfortable because we all open up and share. After our sharing time, one of the dads gives a lesson about important values and areas to be aware of that we can apply to our own personal lives and what to avoid when we experience certain situations. I'm excited to see what the dads have in store for us as

they lead us through a book called, "The Measure of a Young Man". The author walks us through seven principals on how to become a young man of faith, strength, and godly character. I am looking forward to growing with my Brothers-Under-Christ.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

**Sharing My Hair Because I care!**

by Johanna Grace Yamamura



Ever since I was five years old I really wanted to grow my hair super long so that I could donate it to kids who need wigs, just like my big sis Tiffany did. Everyday I would wash my hair to keep it really clean and brush it so there were no tangles. Then the day came that I was super excited to finally cut my hair! The first thing we did was to measure the length. We wanted to cut it

at about twelve inches. Our hair dresser, Ms. Jenny, made my hair into a tight pony tail. I wasn't nervous at all as I watched her cut off my hair. I was really happy I did it - not because it was too heavy or because of looks but I really did it because I wanted to give my hair to kids that are losing their hair maybe from a sickness or disease. There is a really good organization called *Children With Hair Loss* that gives wigs to help children have better self esteem. It makes me sad to think that these kids go to school scared because they might get teased and bullied since they don't have hair. I really want to share joy and bless other kids. It makes me feel like I'm actually doing something good with my hair. When you do something good for others, it makes you feel good too!



Christmas is a reminder of the love that God showed to all of us when He sent His son Jesus over two thousand years ago. It is also a great reminder of the selfless kind of love we can show to others.

We are so thankful for everyone near and far who has lifted our family up in prayer and spurred us on to grow in the Lord. Our hearts are grateful for all of the Hanai aunties and uncles, friends and family who have shown care for Tiffany, Luke, Josh and Gracie with your prayers, notes, words of encouragement and thoughtful gifts. Through their ups and downs, our children have seen first hand this kind of love.

As we reflect on God's great love for us we think of you and pray that you also will experience His love this Christmas season.

With love,

Owen, San, Tiffany (18), Luke (15), Joshua (12), and Grace (9)