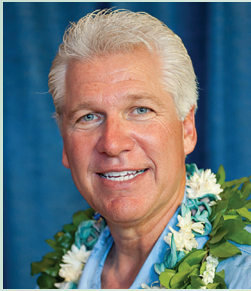


Hō'ike

December 2021

News and Inspiration for Seventh-day Adventists
in the Hawaii Conference



By Ralph Watts III
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of Seventh-day Adventists

Surviving a Storm

Dear 'Ohana,

Reynolds Price wrote that there is one sentence above all that people crave. Here it is: "The Maker of all things loves and wants me." Let that sentence rest on your heart for just a moment. It's what I believe to be true. How about you? If a stranger walked up to you and asked you what you believed, this one sentence would certainly get the conversation started: "I believe the Maker of all things loves and wants me!"

Why did Jesus come to this planet? Because He loves and wants me! Isn't that at the very core what the best-known verse of Scripture is all about?

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16, KJV).

Isn't that a beautiful description of Christmas? If you want to sum up what Christmas is all about, you only need one word containing four letters: Love. Isn't that what the first Christmas was all about? "For God so loved the world that He gave...."

You see, the miracle of Christmas is not found on 34th Street, the miracle of Christmas is found at the feet of Jesus Christ. From a crude wooden cradle

to that cruel wooden cross, He came. Because He loves and wants you.

Could it be this is the truth this planet so desperately needs to hear? "The Maker of all things loves and wants me!" Today you and I are being offered the greatest gift ever given, wrapped in crimson red. A gift you will not find under your Christmas tree—this Christmas gift is found at the foot of Calvary's tree.

What do you say we carry these words on our hearts today, this week, this Christmas, through this pandemic and beyond. Say it out loud and believe it: "The Maker of all things loves and wants me!" Alleluia!

With Christmas Aloha,
Ralph S. Watts III



Update on Camp Waianae

“We know God has big plans to continue to use Camp Waianae to draw people to Him.”

As we near the first anniversary of our arrival here at Camp Waianae, we reflect on the way God has guided and helped us to achieve so far. Our three greatest blessings have been the support and help we have received from volunteers, donations that Camp Waianae has received (which have been especially precious during this challenging time of the pandemic), and the opportunity to welcome guests—including Pathfinders, young people for summer camp, and church groups who rented our facility. Hearing the stories of changed lives, laughter, and the thrill of summer camp have highlighted how special Camp Waianae is.

In September, with a big aloha, we welcomed three student missionaries from Canada. Sisters Barbara and Bethany Keirs and their friend Jaxon Sackett have generously dedicated a year to Camp Waianae. They are a huge blessing.

Through prayer and careful consideration, our leadership has cast a vision for growing Camp Waianae so it can be a further blessing to our young people and

the young at heart who come to camp. Through the goodness of God, generous donations of time and monetary resources have been provided to help achieve this vision. Significant progress has already been made, as can be seen in the following examples.

Security at our front entrance was increased with the installation of a new automated front gate and beautiful supporting columns, both made possible by volunteers. The project is not complete, however. There are still 120 feet of stone wall to build in order to finish securing the entrance to camp. We are currently seeking donations to finalize this project.

In July, volunteers cleared two acres of land, completing the first step in developing it into a camping area. This camping space will increase Camp Waianae’s capacity to host our Pathfinders. The master plan includes expanding activities for our youth by building a low ropes course, jungle gym, and gardening area.

While growth and new

development are always exciting, there are some projects that involve caring for the older parts of camp. The roof on the cafeteria has reached the end of its useful life. We have plans to replace the leaking cafeteria roof and the cracking interior floor and to seal the building with new windows. This will significantly improve the function of the cafeteria/meeting hall.

Your prayers, time, and support are greatly appreciated. We know God has big plans to continue to use Camp Waianae to draw people to Him.

By Randy Maddox



Student Missionaries Dedicate a Year to Camp Waianae

The time we have spent volunteering at Camp Waianae has been an amazing and fun-filled experience. The three of us—Barbara, Bethany, and Jaxon—traveled from Alberta, Canada, after hearing about the opportunity to do maintenance work here in Waianae on the island of Oahu.

Before coming to Hawaii, we had little in the way of expectations; however, the expectations that we had have been far exceeded. Along with cultivating new skills, we immediately felt we were a part of the camp family. Randy and Krystal have been so kind, and it is easy to see that they have a passion to spread God’s love to others through their hard work and dedication to Camp Waianae.

Some of the work that the three of us do regularly include grounds upkeep, mechanics, cleaning the pool, and working on the many ongoing projects to improve the facilities. One project that we finished shortly after arriving was creating a cement curb for the flower beds in front of the new parking lot. After a lot of hard work, which included digging trenches and pouring cement, it was exciting to see the project come together.

We look forward to the upcoming months when we will be able to help complete more projects with the many people who come together to make Camp Waianae possible. We have been tremendously blessed to have been called to serve here at Camp Waianae, and we hope that our efforts will make a difference in and around the community.

By Erik Vandenburg





Mahalo Mau Loa (Eternally Grateful)

I remember sitting in the Sacramento airport in August of 2012. I had just finished visiting my family in Lodi, California, and I was on my way to be a taskforce worker at Hawaiian Mission Academy for that school year. I didn't know what to expect or what would come, but I knew that the step was one that would open many opportunities.

Fast forward to 2016. I returned to HMA after finishing my undergraduate studies at Southern Adventist University. As I reflect back upon my time here, these 5 ½ years in Hawaii have provided nothing but growth and blessings in my life.

The number one thing I always reflect on are my students and the growth that they experience. Whether it's making award-winning films, taking charge of running a basketball offense, or mastering the design of a yearbook page, my students are the ones who kept me motivated to come back every day and to keep doing what I do.

At the conference level, I've also been able to experience the warmth and hospitality of all of our islands. Being able to visit and learn from the different Hawaiian islands has been something that I will take with me and treasure forever. I have developed an `ohana here that will truly be `ohana for eternity.

As I trade shave ice for hot chocolate in Washington, I want to sincerely say mahalo to everyone here in the Hawaii Conference. I've been blessed to get to

experience and work alongside those truly making a difference in education and also those communicating the great news of Christ. Hawaii has become a home, and it will always be a home to me.

Thank you for bringing me in and growing me into a better person. I'm so grateful that I got to spend these years with you.

Always, Matt Webster



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