

Ho'ike

February 2023

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

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In the last three issues of the Ho'ike newsletter, we have explored the message of the first angel's message: the everlasting gospel, the judgment, and what it means to worship the Creator. The second angel's message is about the fall of a false religious system of worship. Pastor Andre Weston, pastor of the Hilo and Puna churches, has written about the message of the second angel, approaching it with a fresh perspective on what it means to be drunk with the "wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Revelation 14:8). He suggests that there is another possible danger that is closely related to drunkenness that we as Christians need to be mindful of.

Drunkenness and Sleep Deprivation

By Pastor Andre Weston

I still remember a time many years ago when I was riding in a car with a friend late at night. My friend was driving, and he was having trouble staying inside his lane. The first drift of the car across the broken white line of our lane wasn't concerning. My friend jerked the wheel back and corrected his mistake. I chose not to mention it. The second drift concerned me. Was he OK? Again, my friend corrected the wandering vehicle before he strayed too far out of his boundary. By the time he drifted a third time, I knew I had to say something. I had just opened my mouth to chastise him when red and blue lights illuminated the scene. The police were now noticing us.

My friend pulled over and rolled down his window. When the officer came into view, his question was right to the point. "How much have you been drinking?" The fact of the matter was, there was no alcohol in the car and neither of us were drinkers. We definitely weren't

drinking that night. The problem was that my friend had pulled an all-nighter the day before and, between studying and working extra hours in his part-time job, he was sleep deprived. Thankfully, the officer also concluded that lack of sleep was the culprit and not alcohol. The situation resolved with a ticket, more alert driving on the rest of the trip, and no car accident. It is rather surprising to consider that, from the officer's point of view, drunkenness and sleep deprivation were almost indistinguishable.

In Revelation 14:8 the Bible reads, "And another angel followed, saying, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication'" (NKJV). In this prophetic note, the second angel of Revelation 14 outlines why Babylon is degraded. Though influentially great and expansive, this spiritual city of confusion—the headquarters antithetical to God's city of peace, *Continued on page 2*

Hawai'i Island Garden Project

Aloha mai kākou! Greetings from the beautiful islands of Hawai'i, specifically from Hawai'i island. Here at the Puna church, we have started our first-ever Garden Project initiative. With Ku'uipo Sartes as leader, this Garden Project has become Puna church's inreach and outreach initiative to engage the congregation and reach the needs of our greater community.

Here on the island of Hawai'i, agriculture and farming are at the forefront of the community and culture. From Hawaiian *mo'olelo* (stories), it is apparent that Hawaiians have deep roots that are derived from the concept of *'āina* (land). This concept helps Native Hawaiians recognize the sacred bond between themselves and the land. Here in Hawai'i, life is very community-oriented; building and maintaining relationships is a priority for our way of life.

There is a sacred bond between us and our Father and between us and people. When we recognize

what our sacred bond with the Father generates in us, we naturally respond by cultivating relationships around us because the Father nurtures our growth (1 Corinthians 3:6-8). Our lives are a testimony of Jesus Christ, and that testimony speaks of the Father's love in our lives and how we can share that



love with others. The Puna church Garden Project helps us contextualize the gospel in terms that the community around us can understand and relate to.

We have already planted six banana trees and have created five garden beds that contain soybeans, sweet potatoes, onions, basil, eggplant, pineapples, papaya, and taro. We also hosted a garden party during which families from the church were able to paint pots and then plant seeds in their newly decorated pots.

This garden project's focus is to provide an opportunity for the church and community to draw lessons from the indigenous plants here in Polynesia. Those lessons help empower personal ministries at the local level. We will be hosting a *ho'olaule'a* (celebration) on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at the Puna church. We are inviting all of the churches of the Hawai'i Conference to attend this event.

By Matthias Bernard



HMA Windward Students Share Joy

For the past decade, Hawaiian Mission Academy (HMA) Windward Campus has participated in Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet the needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disaster, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love. In 1993, Samaritan's Purse was asked if they could fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. Since then, millions of shoeboxes have been delivered around

the world.

Participation in Operation Christmas Child is an annual event at HMA Windward that culminates with all the students bringing their boxes to the chapel and praying over the boxes. The boxes are then labeled and loaded for delivery to a local collection point. As the new principal participating in this long tradition for the first time, I was pleased to see so many students supporting the effort. We may be a small school,

but our students have big hearts. The volunteers at the collection point were so excited to see all the boxes being delivered from our school.

It feels good to give, but this is about more than just feeling good. HMA Windward is in the business of educating our students for eternity, and a part of that is teaching our kids that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

By Shane Hilde



Continued from page 1 Jerusalem—is fallen because she has caused the world to become drunk on the wine of her fornication.

The Bible strongly establishes the link between fornication and disobedience to God's teachings (Jeremiah 3:6-8, Ezekiel 16:15-30), and so the controversy the second angel has with Babylon is that it has led the world into disobedience against God through its doctrinal teachings. Any teaching to not keep God's commandments or to follow manmade traditions instead of the Bible is rebellion against God. To accept these teachings is to become spiritually drunk—impaired, confused, and unable to see danger that is coming—much like operating a vehicle under the influence of a strange substance.

But I want to speak briefly to those who pride themselves in keeping the commandments. To those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. To those who can justify from Scripture every doctrine

they've accepted. Never forget that sleep deprivation is effectively the same as drunkenness. Though you may not have accepted the wine of false doctrine, if you are not rested in the peace of a saving personal relationship with Jesus, and if you are not alert and watching for the signs of His coming, I would suggest that you are spiritually sleep-deprived and therefore no better prepared for coming dangers than those who are drunk on the wine of false doctrine.

The Bible says in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (NKJV). Biblical sobriety is not merely refusing the wine of Babylon, it is equally being spiritually awake and in tune to the status of your relationship with Jesus and having discernment of the great controversy between Christ and Satan playing out in world events and in people's lives. So, the next time the Holy Spirit pulls you over, don't just be able to declare, "I haven't been drinking Babylonian wine," be also able to say, "I am spiritually awake and alert because I am fully rested in Jesus."



Students at Kahili Adventist School Keep Active

On a clear and sunny October morning, all 24 students of Kahili Adventist School began their annual bike-a-thon. Spirits were high and energy was flowing—you could hear it in the chatter as the students started the ride on the Kapaa bike path, located just a few yards away from the school. The bike path runs approximately 4.5 miles along the coastline, so it took several round trips for the students to collectively ride 450 miles in the three-hour event. Being located so close to the Kapaa bike path means that Kahili has a regular presence there, and people walking on the path will sometimes stop students and give donations during the bike-a-thon. The bike-a-thon raises funds for field trips and outdoor school days, and this year the students raised \$4,500.

Kahili tries to take advantage of the mild climate of Kauai with as many outdoor educational opportunities as possible. But even inside the classroom, an effort is made to make learning as interactive as possible. For example, teachers encourage the students to “do” science, not just read about it. This school year,

students in grades four to eight got to perform sheep brain dissection with the help of one of the parents, Dr. Janie Yoo, an ophthalmologist who trained at Loma Linda Medical School. Students find hands-on learning to be more interesting than just reading about it in a textbook. “I loved cutting into the brain and exploring different areas inside,” said Jaycee Yoo, a fifth-grade student. And Eha Santos, a seventh-grade student, agreed, saying, “I thought it was pretty cool learning about the parts of the brain.”

By Keith Hatcher



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