

Hō'ike

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



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President

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We Are His Light

Hawaii—the place you hear about as a child but never really expect to visit. When I was about 10, my dad won a trip to Hawaii through his business. Unfortunately, the trip was only for two, so my brother and I had to stay home. Our only consolation was that we would spend the week at our best friend’s house.

Kevin’s home was a very exciting place where all us kids wanted to go. He always had the most unusual items to play with. If it was during the day, we would be outside riding his little mini motorcycle or playing on his seesaw, which not only went up and down but also spun in a circle. Toward evening, we would play inside with all his gadgets—ham radios, hand crank generators, and other small electronics that kept us thoroughly entertained.

Kevin had just discovered a new form of entertainment and was excited to share it with us. He took us to the basement, where we entered a tiny little bathroom that was pitch black. It was so dark you couldn’t even see your hand in front of your face.

He then set off a very big camera flash that was so brilliant it blinded us. After a moment we could see an image of Kevin’s smiling face glowing in the darkness—which I can still visualize to this day.

Have you ever had a moment in time when everything seemed dark,

then a bright “light” came into your life? Jesus says in John 8:12, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (KJV).

In this world it can seem awfully dark. Then, like He did for Saul on the road to Damascus, Jesus reveals Himself to us in a split second. His image of light is burned not only into our eyes but into our very being. It is in this moment that everything changes. We may still be in a dark world, but we see His image clearly and experience His light in us.

In Matthew 5:14-16 (KJV), Jesus tells us the purpose of this light. “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid” (verse 14). This is not a “maybe” statement. It says we are the light. At times we might feel our light is shining as bright as the sun, and at other times we might feel like it is just a small flickering candle. No matter the intensity—we are still His light.

Jesus tells us we shouldn’t hide our light but put it “on a candlestick” (verse 15). He intends our light to be seen by others to be a blessing to them. Clearly Jesus says, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (verse 16). When we truly live our lives in such a way, the world will see and

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It's Called Purpose

The first conference-wide young adult retreat in recent memory took place April 22 through 24 at Camp Wai'anae. The retreat grew from an idea: it is good for this generation of young adults to be together and to accomplish things together. Soon we had a planning team representing four churches on O'ahu. We prayed. We chose a date on the calendar. We partnered with Pastor Erik, then in the Youth Department. We began taking inter-island trips to connect with other young adults. We spread the word and people came. Over the course of the retreat weekend, over 100 individuals joined, with representation from five of our islands, many ethnicities and backgrounds, and an age range of over 20 years.

We came together to build and deepen relationships, to celebrate the Light of the World in us, and to consider our purpose and calling as young adults. Jesse Seibel expounded on these themes over three powerful sessions as the weekend's main speaker. We sang songs like "I Saw the Light" and "This Little Light of Mine." Being the light became a watchword of purpose for the weekend, with the metaphor captured in the fairy-lighted decor. Sabbath afternoon found us in small groups reflecting on the meaning of purpose, followed by a panel of the Seibels and Karissa and Jon Baker discussing how they have lived out their purpose and calling by building Christ-animated businesses. We ended the major programming with a talent show populated by our diverse group—members of the Kapolei Samoa-Tonga church offered a spectacular finale. Volleyball, a bonfire, and more fellowship continued deep into the night.

It was clear by the end of the weekend that it was a waypoint of development, with much more to come. We were refreshed as a community, and we left with a shared sense of purpose to act meaningfully in the world. Already folks are discussing how to stay connected, what more to build, and which island is going to host the next retreat. If you have questions about or ideas for young adult life in Hawai'i, feel free to email me at sdkabel@gmail.com.

By Scott Kable



istockphoto.com/Charoan Parip



istockphoto.com/subjug

Continued from page 1 believe—and covet the life He gave us. They, being transformed by His light shining through us, become another light. This transfer of light is the power of the gospel at work.

The mission statement of the Hawaii Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, in Article II of our constitution, reads, “The purpose of the conference is to facilitate the proclamation of the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6-12 to all peoples within its territory, leading them to accept Jesus as personal Savior and to unite with His church, and nurturing them in preparation for His soon return.”

I love how Ellen G. White connects our mission statement with the light found in Matthew 5:14-16.

“God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositaries of His law and has

committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time. Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, these are a sacred trust to be communicated to the world. The three angels of Revelation 14 represent the people who accept the light of God’s messages and go forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth. Christ declares to His followers: ‘Ye are the light of the world’” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 455-456).

As Seventh-day Adventists, we have the privilege of being stewards of the gospel by being this light. God has entrusted us for this time to proclaim it to the world. It is my hope and prayer that we will find every way possible to fulfill our purpose in our ministries throughout the conference—church, school, Pathfinders, summer camp—and every member will personally choose to let their light shine so that we no longer have to look “through a glass, darkly; but then face to face” (1 Corinthians 13:12, KJV).

Remember—you are His light.

Congratulations Class of 2022

Hawaiian Mission Academy

Lorrie Akuna-Joseph
Makamae Brede
Micah Castillo
Kallie Curtis
Ariana Dellinger
Charlie Emelio
Ayo Jo
Daniella Lopez
Kate Nakamura
Kristoff Ramirez
Nari Shin
Roczen Simeona
Banri Takada
Laural Tsutsumi
Lee Tsutsumi

Adventist Malama Elementary School

Tyson Kameoka
Journey Liliu
Brooklyn Opetaiia
Kaiah Santos
Staiylin Stanton-Hernandez
Talaiha Talitonu, II

Hawaiian Mission Academy

Ka Lama Iki
Arman Amer
Lorena DeSoto
Maite Garcia
Dalton Leong
Khloe Matautia
Danssyne Roberts
Caelan “CJ” Wells
Kai Yamase
Hanul Yu

Hawaiian Mission Academy Maui

Mikah Marras
Mikela Soriano-Marras
Luc Racilles
Ricardo Tavares, Jr.

Hawaiian Mission Academy Windward Campus

Rainer Freeman
Elea Gould
Liya Seibel
Jacob VanDenburgh

Kahili Adventist School

John Same
Elijah Diaz

Kohala Adventist School

Destiny Soares
Lewis Singh
Leonard Singh
Dante Murry

Kona Adventist Christian School

Deivy Melquiades
Faye Devine
Brandon Vasquez
Chanel Felton

Mauna Loa School

Arianna Aukai
Nariya Carvelo
Sandler Everly
Kayla Freitas
Jenea Gomez
Zoe Hirae
Isaiah Ishigo

Dear Ocean Sports,
Thank you for taking us
on our incredible field
trip whale watching. I
loved the net on the
front of the boat.
Thanks for helping me
when I was sea sick.
Thanks for the snacks.

Sincerely,
Ana
KOA School



In Awe of Creation on the Big Island

Living on the Big Island of Hawaii offers so many glimpses of heaven. Situated here in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we are reminded that we are constantly surrounded by His sea of love. Hawaii's lush tropical plant life—on land and beneath the waves—brings to mind God's creative power and ability to recreate us. Few things offer a more powerful reminder of His creative genius than watching the humpback whales that winter in the warm waters of Hawaii.

On February 22 (2/22/22!) Kohala Adventist School students had the privilege of boarding a vessel at our local Kawaihae Harbor and venturing out to marvel at these annual visitors. We were blessed to be offered a private cruise from Ocean Sports, which allowed us to invite the students' families to join our whale watch adventure. Parents, grandparents, and siblings came together to watch in awe as the humpbacks breached, slapped their tails and pectoral fins, and displayed their unique tail patterns as they dove into the deep azure waters.

No two human thumb prints, no two whale tails, no two sets of zebra stripes, and no snowflakes are exactly alike—and I am sure there are many more examples in nature. I can't help but be reminded that God's creative stamp is on each one of us, and each of us are unique, cherished, and of infinite value to God.

As a teacher, I try to impress on every student that God cares personally for them and that He made them for a special purpose. Each one of us has a work to do for Him that no one else can accomplish like we can.

Students wrote thank you cards to the crew for their boating adventure, and I was so impressed with the art they included. Praise God for the majesty of the whales and the reminder that each one of us is a unique gem to Him. Praise God for the privilege of partnering with Him to bring His saving love to every corner of this globe.

By Jackie Millar

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