

## Ho`ike

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

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## Why Do People Have to Die?

When my wife, Jana, and I were young parents, people would come up to us and say, “Enjoy your kids while they are young—they grow up far too quickly!” It happened so frequently that it started to get annoying. Our kids were in diapers; it seemed like life was on pause and they would never grow out of that stage.

Now I know what they were talking about. My oldest son, Jacob, just turned 15 and is a freshman at Hawaiian Mission Academy. Whenever he sees me, he stands tall and erect beside me, sizing himself up to see if he has passed me in height! (The last time we checked he was dead even.) With the passing of time, when my wife and I stumble upon pictures of our boys when they were little, we text them to each other. The memories flood back like it was just yesterday, accompanied by a feeling of longing to return to those days when the boys were babies.

When we were living in Arizona and Jacob was around four years old, my grandma passed away. I was putting him to bed and after I tucked him in, he asked a very thought-provoking question. “Daddy, why do people have to die?” I took the next few moments to explaining to him how God created the world perfect and beautiful. There was no

such thing as sin until Adam and Eve chose to distrust God and eat from the forbidden tree (Romans 5:12).

From that moment everything changed. Sin entered the world, causing life to be removed from the creation. The marks of sin took their toll, from the tiniest of plants to mankind. Fortunately, God had a plan. He would send His Son into the world to free us from the curse of sin by giving His life for us and setting things straight (John 3:16). If we accepted Jesus as our Savior, we would not die but would live forever with Him in a world made new (Revelation 21:1-4).

This age-old story that I shared with Jacob is part of what is known as the great controversy and includes the three angels’ messages, which we have been taking a closer look at over the past year in the *Ho`ike* newsletter.

The three angels’ messages are really a brief synopsis of earth’s history and how God connects with His creation to restore that which was lost (Luke 19:10). He casts judgment on death (1 Corinthians 15:26; Revelation 20:14) and anything that is connected with it. God’s creation sees what sin is and what it has caused. It sees God’s goodness, His judgment, and His authority. The response of the created is to worship Him.

John the Revelator *Continued on page 2*



# 2023 Hawaii Young Adult Retreat

Read the main story on page 34, but here we're sharing more photos.



*Continued from page 1* saw a brief glimpse of what this type of worship looked like in Revelation 4:8-11.

*And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"*

*And whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne saying, "Worthy are you, our Lord God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created" (ESV).*

I want to be part of this type of worship and see the fullness of the redemption

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story. To worship the Creator who puts life back into His creation. To be able to sit with Him on His throne (Revelation 3:21) and declare His goodness throughout eternity. To be able to cast my crown at Jesus' feet while saying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!"

I'm so glad death is not the end of our story. A time is coming when we will no longer have to watch our loved ones grow old and die. I truly believe Jesus is coming very soon—and I have proof! Jesus our Savior says at the end of the book, "Surely I come quickly!" (Revelation 22:20, KJV). If He said it, then I believe it!

My prayer is that you will see the joy in the message of the three angels. That you will receive it and join God's final church in proclaiming this to a dying world that will soon be made new!



# Congratulations Graduates

## **Hawaiian Mission Academy**

Marquez Asao  
Ryen Cacal  
Allie Clapp  
Massimo Cretu  
Divina Daligcon  
Aleksandr Gould  
Hailey Kaneshiro  
Roman Kuhau  
Joseph Lincoln  
Abigail Lipps  
Dylan Mordeno  
Jolie Nakamura  
Christian Perez  
Noah Seibel  
Rautea Teraiharoa  
Draven Townsend  
Kaylin Wee

## **Adventist Malama Elementary School**

Kona Acedillo  
Daisy Flores  
Abigail Garcesano  
Tink Lopez  
Aiden Pastor  
Kolton Quiacusan  
Staiylin Stanton-Hernandez  
Kingston Telles

## **Hawaiian Mission Academy Ka Lama Iki**

Athena Alvarez  
Titus Brownell  
Love' Gurrola  
Ema Iizuka  
Thushar Kumar  
Samantha Latag  
Angeline Teehee  
Jacob Teehee  
Habyul Yu

## **Hawaiian Mission Academy Maui**

Marley Baker  
Makayla Barroga  
Kawena Kanaha-Gaspar  
Jaziah Tomita

## **Hawaiian Mission Academy Windward Campus**

Ava Asing  
Mia Bechard  
Kiana Burgo  
Colbie Nakamura

## **Kahili Adventist School**

Jake Nakamura

## **Kohala Adventist School**

Darius Kangas

## **Kona Adventist Christian School**

Halia Keanaaina

## **Mauna Loa School**

Kalena Higa  
Emily Meyer  
Alfred Phillips  
Chase Thompson

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