Hoike

June 2023

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

Why Do People Have to Die?



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Hawaii Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

hen 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).

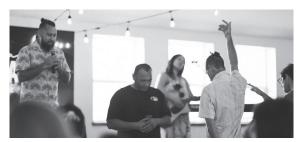
This age-old story that I shared with Jacob is part of what is known as the great controversy and includes the three angels' messages, which we have been taking a closer look at over the past year in the *Ho`ike* newsletter.

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 God's creation sees what sin is and what it has caused. It sees God's goodness, His judgment, and His authority.

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 Ioseph 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 lizuka
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

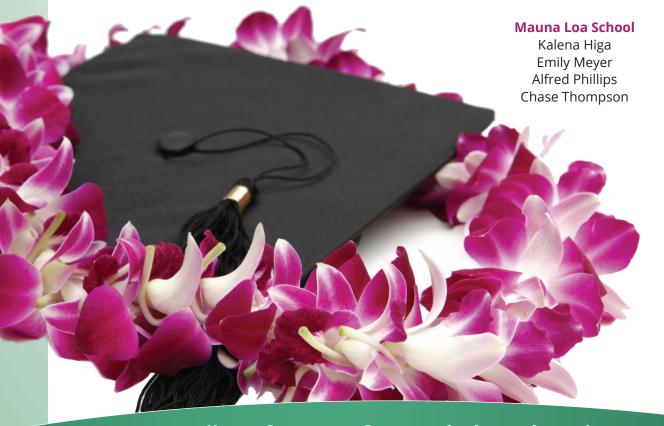
Jake Nakamura

Kohala Adventist School

Darius Kangas

Kona Adventist Christian School

Halia Keanaaina



Hawaii Conference of Seventh-day Adventists