

*Aloha,*

*JULY 2011*

"O Israel, rejoice in your Maker, O people of Jerusalem, exult in your King. Praise his name with dancing accompanied by tambourine and harp. For the LORD delights in his people; he crowns the humble with victory. Let the faithful rejoice that he honors them. Let them sing for joy as they lie on their beds." Psalm 149:2-4

June was quite an exciting month in our house. For weeks I'd been preparing. I cleaned the rooms in the basement and put up some decorations. I sanded and painted tables and dressers. I bought special little gifts and laid them out on the beds. I stocked the fridge and cabinets with "fun" foods like mac and cheese, frozen pizza, ice cream, etc. etc. etc!!!

Camp Popo 2011 was all set to begin! The first guests to arrive were the grandchildren from Arizona. Jack and I were beside ourselves waiting for them to deplane! Bethany, 14, Savannah, 12, and Silas 7, ran to our open waiting arms! They were going to be with us for a little over 2 weeks and we knew just how fast that time would fly by.

While all of this was going on there was another homecoming taking place. Jack's precious mom, Ethyl, was getting ready to go home to heaven. I can only imagine the scene in heaven as word was passed around to her precious Bud (George), and to her four sisters who had gone home before her! I wonder what special preparations were going on in heaven the day mom left this earth?

Bethany, Savannah, and Silas were able to spend some time with their great-grandma the first week they were here. She delighted in them. Her eyes just beamed as she hugged each one of them. I could see she was getting tired, so Jack took them outside to find some ice cream. She and I talked about how precious our children were. She delighted in her children Arlene, Jack, and Annette and lived long

enough to delight in her grandchildren and even great-grandchildren!



*Ethyl delighting in her children-Annette, Jack, & Arlene  
Photo: Wanda Gerold*

In week two of their visit, Josh, Taylor, and our youngest grandchildren arrived. Jack is 3 and Finn turned one on July 2nd. What a joy it was to see all our grandchildren together! Every now and then I would catch Jack's eye and we would just smile. We both knew what the other was thinking...."I just want to drink this all in...every fun chaotic moment"....we were delighting in our children and our children's children.



*Rachel, Big Jack, Bethany, Jason, Josh, Taylor, Finn, Arlene, Silas, Savannah, Lil Jack & Popo (Maree) CAMP POPO – 2011!*

By the time Josh and his family arrived Grandma was no longer conscious but Josh was able to hold her hand and tell her how much he loved her and to thank her for her godly example and all her prayers for him and his brothers. He cried as he told her that all three of them were now in the ministry and were committed to raising their families to know the Lord the way she had raised Jack and his two sisters. It was a precious holy moment to be there with her as

she was letting go of the last tethers of this life and preparing to spend eternity with her Lord.

Ethyl had spent a lifetime preparing for this day. She had delighted in her Lord and she knew He delighted in her.

As the family and friends gathered to celebrate her life I was reminded that we who are alive and in relationship with the God of this Universe are also to be in a constant state of preparing. I should be longing for and preparing for my next life in heaven in the same way I look forward to and long for the visits from my children and grandchildren.



SSF worship team: Jaden, Jake, George, Donovan, Moose, Maree & Jack

The more I worship Him, draw close to Him in prayer, read His word, and fellowship with other believers, the more excited I get about going home! It is so easy to get distracted down here on earth. So much of our lives are taken up with the urgency of the here and now. Purposefully setting aside time each day to focus on Christ and my future with him is so much more important than anything else in my day!



Jason and Bethany kayaking at WAIKIKI JACK'S

The words from a familiar song keep running through my head. "This world is not my home. I'm just a-passin' through. My treasures are laid up

somewhere beyond the blue. The angels beckon me from heaven's golden shore. And I can't feel at home in this world anymore."



Josh and little Jack

None of us know or are guaranteed a certain number of years on this earth. But, if we are trusting in Christ as our Lord and Savior we are all given an eternity of everlasting life with Him and each other. Praise the Lord.

### SSF UPDATE:

Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup>-SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER-IAN LEACH

Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup> SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER-Steve Leach (Ian's son)

*Aloha Ke Akua,*

*Jack & Maree,*

*Jack & Maree*



Finn Nordgren is growing and thriving-thanks for your prayers