

# Amazing Grace

March 2015

A Missionary Basic Christian Community of Hawaii – Renew Newsletter

## MBCC Executive Board 2015 - 2016

President  
Larry Ritter

Vice-President  
Isaac Valencia

Recording Secretary  
Susan Solomon

Corresponding Secretary  
Kaleo Ho

Treasurer  
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Jessica Ham Young

Young Adult Chair  
TBA

Aloha and Welcome to the latest installment of our MBCC Hawaii- Renew Newsletter "Amazing Grace".

This year, a New Year brings a New Executive Board. Hearing the call to serve, we answered yes. In this edition we will hear from our newly installed President, Larry Ritter, as well as our out-going President, Joe Espinoza.

*We thank Joe and all our outgoing Executive Board members for their love, dedication, and hard work in serving our Lord for the past several terms!*

**Mahalo to you all!!**



## Aloha and Welcome from Larry Ritter, President, MBCC Executive Board 2015-2016

Aloha MBCC of Hawaii – Renew Members,

First order of business; to give glory, praise and thanks to our Triune God who calls us to be His missionaries in spreading the Good News of salvation through Jesus, His one and only beloved Son who redeemed us through His death on the Cross and Resurrection in Glory.

Secondly I want to extend my appreciation and gratitude to the leadership and general membership from the roots of the formation of this organization, up to the most recent, that culminated with the celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> Encounter in October of 2014. I, and the new Executive Board, cannot carry out our duties without this solid foundation upon which to grow.

My name is Larry Ritter, recently elected president of the Executive Board that is serving you from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016. We are humbled and honored to do so. The names and positions of the other Board members are on the newsletter masthead

[continued on page 7]



Outgoing President Joe Espinoza inducting the new 2015 - 2016 MBCC Board Members at the first Board Meeting of the year, January 14, 2015

Pictured above: Incoming President, Larry Ritter (L) and Joe Espinoza (R)

### We're on the Web!

See us at:  
<http://www.mbcchawaiirenew.com>

### ARTICLES

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Aloha & Welcome from Larry Ritter | 1 |
| A Word from Joe Espinoza          | 2 |
| MBCC Retreat Dates                | 2 |
| Celebrating an MBCC Milestone     | 2 |
| Getting to Know You               | 3 |
| A Spiritual Note by Dcn Kin Borja | 4 |
| Post Encounter #101               | 5 |
| Bible Trivia                      | 6 |
| Recipes                           | 6 |
| Bible Trivia Answers              | 7 |

## A word from Past President, Joe Espinoza...

Dear MBCC Members,

As the exiting MBCC President for the past four years I would like to say the words Thank You. Thank You to my fellow Executive Board Members who tirelessly brought their time, talent, and treasure to each meeting, retreat, and community. Their individual contributions cannot

be measured by years, but by the many that have been blessed to attend one of our incredible retreats, or belong to one of our loving communities.

If there was one thing I would leave to the new Executive Board, I would leave the words "If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It". I realize that with new faces, comes new ideas that lead to

change. Change is good if there is something that needs it. MBCC's formula for success has been proven for over 100 retreats. Led by the power of the Holy Spirit, and with our Spiritual Leaders, I urge the new board to keep what's worked for many Executive boards before them. Consistency is the key.

[continued on page 7]

### **SAVE THE DATES...UPCOMING MBCC RETREATS:**

**July 24, 25 & 26, 2015**

**October 2, 3 & 4, 2015**

*"Go Out and Tell the Good News!!"*

Invite your family and friends to experience an MBCC Retreat Encounter for themselves!

*They will love you for it!*

## Celebrating an MBCC Milestone MBCC Encounter #100, October 24, 25, & 26 2014

An Awesome milestone was achieved for MBCC the weekend of October 24, 25, & 26, 2014- MBCC held our **100th Encounter!**

It's hard to believe that it's been almost 30 years since MBCC held its first encounter in 1986. Since then we have held retreats not only at St. Anthony's Retreat Center but also within parishes around Oahu and even on the outer islands as well.

To Commemorate Encounter #100, Isaac "Iky" Valencia was tapped to design a t-shirt especially for Encounter #100. Thanks to Iky's amazing talent, our commemorative shirts turned out beautifully and are a wonderful keepsake too!

As if that wasn't special enough, to further Celebrate Encounter #100, our Closing Mass was celebrated by our Bishop Larry Silva. Bishop Larry then stayed and joined us for



Group Picture from MBCC Retreat #100  
"Yes, I Love You with the Love of the Lord!!"  
Photo Courtesy of Nadine & Russell Yamamoto, Lay Directors,  
Encounter #100

our Celebratory Lunch following our Closing Mass. Our wonderful Bishop chatted and even posed for pictures with many members of MBCC- our Bishop is very, very cool like that!

Because of the wonderful leadership of our Spiritual Directors, Fr. David Lupo & Dcn. Kin Borja, and our Lay Directors Russell & Nadine Yamamoto as well as the entire team, it was a very beautiful, blessed & special weekend full of God's love from start to finish. It was an honor to serve on this momentous retreat. We look forward to continuing God's work as MBCC for many years to come- moving onward for another 100 Encounters and more! ~Kaleo Ho

# Getting to Know You...

MBCC proudly profiles two New Missionaries from retreat #100...



"...I have never felt so genuinely loved by complete strangers and was convinced that this was exactly how God intended for us to love one another..."

-Joel Zarbo  
New Missionary, Enc. #100

"...I believe everyone no matter what faith belief or no belief needs to be in community to get to know more about our loving Lord, being in community is a start..."

-Esmerelda Shelltrack  
New Missionary, Enc. #100



New Missionary:  
**Joel Anthony Zarbo,**  
Encounter #100

Community Name:  
Synergizers

Hobbies:  
Hiking, Running, Cliff Diving,  
Meeting New People

## **What does being in community mean to you?**

What community means to me is more than I could ever write or explain. Community, from what I have learned and enjoyed in my short while, is a group of people coming together to share a single, priceless, and seemingly lacking aspect of life, namely love. The people in community do not judge and are accepting of everyone willing to share a plate of food, a laugh, a fond memory, or a painful experience. It is through the unconditional love that is experienced in community that joy is amplified and the pain of loss and life's obstacles is numbed. I was invited to an MBCC Encounter and later to community by Bernice Nicolas.

I came to know Bernice through a turbulent time in my Naval career, but what I have learned is that all things happen for a reason and my meeting Tita Vinnie was no coincidence. I had an unforgettable experience at Encounter #100 and was so blessed to be a part of it. I have never felt so genuinely loved by complete strangers and was convinced that this was exactly how God intended for us to love one another. MBCC and Community are ministries that I pray continue for many years in the future, and while I will be leaving these beautiful islands soon and returning to Florida, I hope to still make it to a few Encounters. Mahalo for all the love and laughter!

-Joel

## **What does being in community mean to you?**

Through being in community every week, I've learned to read the bible and get to know more about my Catholic faith. Also learning to share and evangelize willingly and not being hesitant to sharing it openly with my Pu'uwai Ho'ano (Sacred Heart) community gatherings every Mondays. I'm overwhelmed (in a good way) by sharing myself and thanking the Lord in giving me courage and dignity to be among the parish community too. This has given me great pleasure in serving my ministry in

outreach, hospitality/ ushering at mass, and helping wherever I can. I believe everyone no matter what faith belief or no belief needs to be in community to get to know more about our loving Lord, being in community is a start.

Mahalo & God bless!



New Missionary:  
**Esmerelda Shelltrack,**  
Encounter #100

Community Name:  
Pu'uwai Ho'ano

Parish Ministries:  
Outreach,  
Hospitality/Ushering

## A Spiritual Note

From Deacon Kin Borja...

### Forgiveness

Deacon Kin Borja

We celebrated our 2nd Sunday of Lent. We are well on our journey through the Lenten season. Our tradition has been to pray, to fast, and to give alms so that we may be able to easily be united with one another with total love through forgiveness for our transgressions.

There are times that as humans, we let small things get between us and our Lord. We harbor grudges and really at times hate those around us who are different or those who are not like us.

Here is a short story of transformation. My youngest daughter civilly married with a young military man. I met him and we discussed our plans for the wedding. He was supposed to go through RCIA to be fully initiated in the Faith and then get married in the Sacrament and in our Church. He did not live up to his commitment and that did it for me.

I do not hate him other than I did not appreciate that he did not keep his word. After 5 years of not seeing him as my son-in-law, last month, I called him and my daughter to meet with me so that I can apologize for my indiscretions. I did and feel like a million pounds of garbage have been lifted off my shoulders.

Our forgiveness of each other will help both of us deal with future issues and or concerns. As a deacon, I am always reminded to forgive and to love. As a human being, I praised God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for finally stripping me of my foolish pride only to feel AWESOME.

Start with your immediate family---your wife, sons or daughters. The love of Jesus will emanate through your family to those around you. Remember that we cannot give or share if we ourselves do not know or have it.

Pray, Fast and Give Alms for the glory of God our Father through the mercy of Jesus, His Son and through the Holy Spirit.

Praise be the Name of Jesus and Happy Lent!!

*"...There are times that as humans, we let small things get between us and our Lord..."*

*"...Our forgiveness of each other will help both of us deal with future issues and or concerns..."*

*-Deacon Kin Borja*





# Join us for Post-Encounter #101

at  
**Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Church**

Kindergarten Classrooms (behind the Church)  
1525 Waimano Home Road  
Pearl City, HI

**Saturday, March 14, 2015  
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**\*\* Come meet new missionaries and MBCC Communities \*\***



**\*\* Fellowship \* Food \* Games \* Prizes \*\***



**\*\* Bring family and friends \*\***

**\*\* Donate canned goods, cereal or toiletries\*\*  
For the OLGc Food Pantry**



Please call Lori Ing at (808) 393-1496 to let her know you're coming!  
SEE YOU THERE!

*Mahalo to JoAnn Pamplona for continuing to secure OLGc for our team formation, board and post-encounter meetings! You are a blessing!*



## Bible Trivia-Give it a try! (answers on last page)

1. What is the only domesticated animal not mentioned in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What biblical place name means "pleasure"? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What's the only 100 percent Christian nation on Earth? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What animal is mentioned most frequently in both the New and Old Testaments?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What name has been shared by the most popes? \_\_\_\_\_

Bible Trivia excerpts taken from [www.triviplaying.com/23\\_bible\\_Q\\_.html](http://www.triviplaying.com/23_bible_Q_.html)

## Recipes for Lent and Everyday...



### Grandma Ahai's Easy Peasy Cream Tuna

Serves approximately 3-4 people

#### Ingredients:

- (2) cans tuna
- (2) Tbsp oil (or water) reserved from tuna cans
- (2) cans cream of mushroom soup \*\*\*
- (1/2) small onion, diced
- (1) sm bag frozen peas & carrots (rinsed & drained)
- salt & pepper, to taste
- (1/2) soup can water or milk

#### Directions:

- \*Heat the oil (or water) reserved from the tuna cans in a medium skillet or pot.
- \*Add the peas & carrots and onions, cook till onions translucent
- \*Add the tuna, season with & a pinch of salt & pepper, cook till just warmed
- \*Add the cream of mushroom soup
- \*Mix well and cook until well heated
- \*Add water or milk for a less thicker consistency, if desired
- \*Add additional salt & pepper to taste

**Serve over hot rice and enjoy!!**



\*\*\*Contributor's note: In Grandma Ahai's original recipe she made her cream sauce from scratch, mixing together milk and flour and adding it to the vegetables & tuna mixture. Her not as domesticated granddaughter (Kaleo Ho) modified the recipe to cream of mushroom soup instead ☺]

### Ono Pistachio Cake

The Pistachio Green Color makes this the Perfect cake for St. Patrick's Day!

#### Cake:

- Recipe makes (1) 10 inch bundt pan
- 1 (18.25 ounce) package yellow cake mix
  - 1 (3.4 ounce) package instant pistachio pudding mix
  - 4eggs
  - 1 1/2 cups water
  - 1/4 cup vegetable oil
  - 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
  - 7 drops green food coloring

#### Directions:

- \*Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour a 10 inch tube pan.
- \*In a large bowl mix together cake mix and pudding mix. Make a well in the center and pour in eggs, water, oil, almond extract and green food coloring. Blend ingredients, then beat for 2 minutes at medium speed.
- \*Pour into prepared 10 inch bundt pan. Bake in the preheated oven for 50 to 55 minutes, or until cake springs back when lightly pressed. Cool in pan 15 minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack and cool completely.



[Recipe from allrecipes.com]

**Aloha and Welcome from  
Larry Ritter, President, MBCC  
Executive Board 2015-2016**  
[continued from Pg. 1]

It is with confidence, the result of prayerfulness, that I commit to serving MBCC of Hawaii – Renew knowing that I work with an equally dedicated team that makes up the Executive Board. This especially features excellent spiritual direction from Father David Lupo and Deacon Kin Borja. Of course it is through you the membership, by the Grace of the Holy Spirit, that Jesus builds the Kingdom of God here on earth and from whom we as the Board receive validation and inspiration to do our job well.

Jesus did not desert us when he ascended into heaven but left us with the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit to guide us, "...even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

We, the MBCC of Hawaii Executive Board, call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us in all that we do as well as you the members of this important organization.

Peace and Love in Christ Jesus,  
Larry

**MBCC of Hawaii – Renew  
Executive Board, 2015-2016**

President – Larry Ritter  
Vice President – Isaac Valencia  
Treasurer – Joseph Jucutan  
Recording Secretary – Susan Solomon  
Corresponding Secretary – Teri "Kaleo" Ho  
3-Day Encounter – Rosa Lefua  
Pre-Encounter – Russell Yamamoto  
Post-Encounter – Lori Ing  
Finance – Nadine Yamamoto  
Planning – Jessica Ham Young  
Evangelization – Mike Reis  
Young Adult Ministry (YAM) – vacant. Any volunteers?

**A word from Past President,  
Joe Espinoza...**  
[continued from Pg. 2]

If there is one part of MBCC that needs new and fresh ideas, it's the retention of our brothers and sisters in Christ that have attended our retreats, and have yet to become active in our Retreats and Communities.

To the new Executive Board, I say Thank You for stepping up and saying YES! It will be an exciting adventure for all of you leading MBCC into its 2nd hundred retreats.

To our Spiritual Leaders, Father David and Deacon Kin... your time, talent and spiritual leadership has been and forever will be "priceless"! Thank You!

Finally, to the members of MBCC, our Lord and the new Executive Board needs your help in doing "HIS" work. When called upon and by saying YES is very essential in our Retreats, and in our Community growth, Thank You for saying YES!

Finally, WE thank God for the opportunity to serve and love HIM in this ministry of MBCC Renew. It's not enough to say Thank You to all of you, so my daily prayer is for MBCC to grow, mature, and evolve into what God wants to happen. Let's all pray for God's Vision for MBCC... to come to life, God is Good.

Love and Blessings,  
Unkljoe Espinoza

**MBCC Hawaii- Renew Newsletter  
"Amazing Grace" March 2015  
Mahalo to the following for their  
contribution to this edition:**

Larry Ritter  
Joe Espinoza  
Joel Anthony Zarbo  
Esmerelda Shelltrack  
Deacon Kin Borja  
Bernice "Vinny" Nicolas  
Rosa Lefua  
Lori Ing  
Grandma Irene Ahai

Bible Trivia excerpts from:  
[www.triviaplaining.com/23\\_bible\\_Q\\_.html](http://www.triviaplaining.com/23_bible_Q_.html)

Pistachio Cake recipe from:  
[allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)

## ANSWERS- Bible Trivia-Give it a try!

1. What is the only domesticated animal not mentioned in the Bible? **A cat**
2. What biblical place name means "pleasure"? **Eden**
3. What's the only 100 percent Christian nation on Earth? **Vatican City**
4. What animal is mentioned most frequently in both the New and Old Testaments?  
**The Sheep**
5. What name has been shared by the most popes? **John**

**How'd you do??? Stay tuned for more Fun Trivia in the next edition of our newsletter...**

If **you** have an idea for our July 2015 Newsletter, please e-mail me at: [kaleoz@yahoo.com](mailto:kaleoz@yahoo.com)

Mahalo,  
Kaleo Ho  
Corresponding Secretary