

September 2023

# Baldwin News

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus." 1 Corinthians 1:4

Duty Station 2-3 , Issue 6

## Work and War:

*"But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night. In Judah it was said, 'The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.' ...And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, 'Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.' ...And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other." Nehemiah 4:7-10, 14, 17*

What I've learned from Nehemiah;

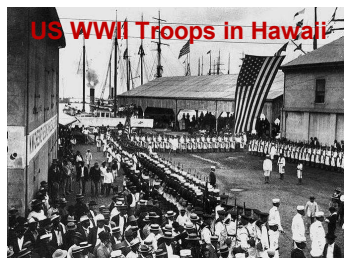
**Good work is God's work:** God glorifying work ultimately produces flourishing for his people as they participate in the work he designed them to do. Conclusively, my Father has marked and called me to work in a way and for a purpose that glorifies him.

Acronym Alcove—CPE: Clinical Pastoral Education was conceived by Dr. Richard Cabot as a method of learning pastoral practice in a clinical setting under supervision. Today many supervisors emphasize the importance of pastoral relationships being formed through an integration of personal history, behavioral theory and method, and spiritual development.

**Opposition:** God's enemies target His good work for destruction (Nehemiah was doing God's work in rebuilding the wall). Parallely, I continuously experience the enemy's opposition as I work because of and for his glory.

External opposition reveals itself through reproach, ridicule, and eventually violence (Nehemiah's enemies saw Jerusalem as vulnerable while it remained unwallled. They sought to exploit this and make themselves masters over it. When fortified, it would become formidable against them).

External opposition never operates in isolation. It always teams up with internal opposition. Internal opposition usually appears when I am tired, overwhelmed, and untrusting. I, like Judah, am tempted to give up (Judah said, "Let us even let it fall, for we are not able to go forward with it," Neh. 4:10).



US WWII Troops in Hawaii

God has called me to respond to opposition as Nehemiah did:

**Observe:** What is God doing in the world? How is his glory being

manifested? How is the enemy scheming and seeking to undermine the Lord's work?

**Pray:** Ps. 74:22 says "Arise, O God, defend your cause; remember how the foolish scoff at you all the day!" God cares for his people and desires to be our defender, therefore, I need to give God all my cares, griefs, fears, and ask for divine protection. The Lord detests the abuse of his people; we should expect God to appear and fight against it.

**Set Guards:** Both prayer and vigilance must guard against opposition. If I pray without vigilance, I'm slothful and I tempt God. If I am vigilant without prayer, I'm proud and I slight God. Erring in either direction forfeits his protection. Matt. 26:41 states, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

**Call to arms and perseverance in work:** Girded with prayer and submitting to the Lord Jesus as the captain and commander of all the armies of heaven, I am now prepared to persevere in the work the Lord has called me to. Vigilance reminds me that the enemy never rests; I and my "family" must continually rally to and

fall in behind King Jesus. Remember the Lord, who is great and terrible; you think your enemies are great and terrible, but what are they in comparison with God, especially in opposition to him!? God's provision for my safety motivates me to press on with intensity in my duty. My enemies will drive me into the arms of the Lord and bolster the work of my hands.

Notes and ideas taken from: *Chapter 4 - Matthew Henry's commentary - Bible Gateway.* (n.d.). <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/matthew-henry/Neh.4.1-Neh.4.23>

## Inside this Issue

<i>Work and War</i>	1
<i>Family News</i>	2
<i>Ministry Update</i>	3
<i>Pictures</i>	4
<i>Contact Information</i>	4

# Family News

## Life Goes On:

Praise: The house projects continue to move forward. The flooring is laid, new screens and window hardware have been installed, the cabinets (but not the doors) have been installed, ceilings are both textured and painted, the yard has some grass growing!



Pray: That we would have the endurance and finances to run this house-remodeling race. Also, we just met with some realtors due to our upcoming move next May (see the ministry update section) and we've learned some disappointing truths: the housing market is down. The projection is that we'll lose approximately \$20,000 if we finish our current list of improvements plus the bathrooms (not in the original plan) to our list; we'll lose more if we don't continue to work on it. We need wisdom and perspective.



Praise: The kids successfully passed their respective grades (11th, 9th, 7th, 5th)!!! They all turned a year older this summer (18, 16, 14, 12). They're hard at work on the new year of school at Liberty University Online Academy.

Pray: Over this year. We've had some character and learning disability concerns.

Praises for Esther: After much prayer and planning, we sent her to Omaha, NE to live with the best family in the world, take a couple of classes at Concordia Jr/Sr High, ultimately graduate from



LUOA, but experience a Sr. Year with good friends at a good brick and mortar school. She was also able to FINALLY get that driver's license (it only took 4 states and 2 years!),

She's able to continue her violin lessons, and took her ACT test for a final time!

Pray: It's her Sr. Year! She needs wisdom as she maps out her future, applies to colleges-jobs-scholarships, and manages being away from home.

Praise: We welcomed two new members into the Baldwin household! One of my Rover clients had surprise puppies and offered 2 to us. The timing wasn't mine, but the gift is good! Introducing Dixie (brown) and Daisy (black)!!



Praise: Rich's new position in Wheeler chapel

has brought us to a great community and has given each of us opportunities! Jeanna is making tons of food for Tuesday night fellowship and helping with the kid's ministry,



Samantha is playing her drums for worship band, Toby is helping with AV, and Tommy is enjoying hanging out with his favorite friends, Zion( pictured right) and Spencer.

Praise: Samantha is finding those friends we've been praying for. She met these great people named the Clasen's who do amazing ministry with basketball. They have organized 4 teams, they coach, and reach out to many in the community through the PALS (police academy) league. It's been amazing to watch God use basketball to reach a diverse group!



Praise: Jeanna has scaled back Rover to just current clients. We're calling our place "Hotel for Dogs!" It's been a fun side gig that allows her to be home. The sweet boys she nannied for have successfully moved to the mainland—thanks for those prayers!



Pray: Continued prayers for wisdom as Jeanna is applying for part time remote work and the life balancing act for her and Rich.

Praise: Our family was able to take a mini vacation before Esther left!!!!



Pray: Neighbors, friends, rover clients, and family: God has brought so many amazing people in our lives and many of them are battling health things: cancer, Alzheimer's, death of spouse, depression, and life support decisions in particular.

Hawaii Specific Prayers: Pray for the people of Maui and so many Hawaiians who are grieving so much loss. Missing people, insurance claims, death, homes, history. Also, We on Oahu are in a serious drought! It's been over 2 months in Makakilo since we've had substantial rainfall.





# Ministry Highlights:

A lot has happened since the last newsletter!

**May:** Rich had the opportunity to attend a major chaplain training where all available chaplains in the Pacific Theater



(INDOPACOM) footprint were invited to Oahu. The training was a week long. Some of the major topics covered were understanding the complexity of the region, a briefing on the nature of the threat posed from China and our other adversaries in the region, and how to conduct religious support in a joint (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force), multi-national battle space with over 100,000,000 square miles with most of that being ocean. In short if was sobering. PRAY THAT WAR NEVER BREAKS OUT IN THIS REGION!!

**June:** Rich was able to go Memphis TN for the PRCC conference and attend General Assembly. During this time he was able to link up with some of his classmates from



Covenant Seminary. He was also able to link up with a number of Pastors from Platte Valley Presbytery. The fellowship and training was a breath of fresh air. It was won-

derful to be around like minded men leading Christ's church. He also had the privilege of reenlisting his Religious Affairs NCO (non-commissioned officer). Finally in June, Rich applied for a very competitive training opportunity, a clinical pastoral education (CPE) residency. The program is a year long training that will focus on ministry in a hospital or a prison setting.



**July:** Rich was asked to join the Wheeler chapel pastoral team. As mentioned earlier this has been a fantastic opportunity for ministry and has afforded the opportunity for the entire family to join in. We have met some dear friends through this community and each of us continues to grow in the Lord. As a result of joining the team, Rich was able to get back into the

pulpit and preach again. This is something he missed a lot while in his Chaplain Captain's Career Course (C4). He currently preaches about once a month and assists with teaching on Tuesday nights and leading a prayer time before service on Sunday. Tuesday nights are the chapel's fellowship night where all the families are invited to share a meal. The youth get together afterwards and the adults have a short bible study. It's a great time for everyone involved.



**August:** In late August, the chapel held a baptism service and one of our members, a chaplain's daughter was baptized IN THE OCEAN! CH Jeremiah Cullett was able to baptize his daughter at the service and since it was at a very public beach generated fantastic conversations with many people who were out enjoying the beach on a Sunday afternoon. The chapel congregation also had a great time in fellowshiping on the sandy shores. In late August, we were notified Rich was accepted to the CPE program. What that means is we will be moving AGAIN in the early part of the summer of 2024. This next time we will be station at one of the following locations Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis McCord (JBLM) outside of Seattle WA, Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio TX or Walter Reed National Military Medical Center outside of Bethesda MD. Rich also took some of his Soldiers on a Resiliency Hike to discuss Hope.



derful to be around like minded men leading Christ's church. He also had the privilege of reenlisting his Religious Affairs NCO (non-commissioned officer). Finally in June, Rich applied for a very competitive training opportunity, a clinical pastoral education (CPE) residency. The program is a year long training that will focus on ministry in a hospital or a prison setting.



Prayer requests: Since Rich has been accepted to the CPE program, our time table has been compressed by a year! Here are our top prayer requests in no particular order:

- We have to get our house finished! Pray that the markets would turn around and that we could complete all the projects.
- Rich's higher headquarters has given him instructions to generate agreements with multiple other installations to establish permanent religious support coverage at every location where he has Agents. He basically needs to draft documents that terminate his current position. Pray for favor in drafting and conversing with lots of high ranking people in Japan and Korea and in Hawaii.
- Pray for the soldiers in Rich's unit. Troop morale is really low and many are wrestling through really difficult circumstances at home, at work, and interpersonally.
- Pray for endurance as Rich continues to offer hope, a listening ear, strength, and truth in the midst of difficult circumstances.
- Pray that unhealthy personalities causing chaos in the CID unit changeover would be removed.
- Pray that God would bring more families and people to Wheeler chapel!
- Praise that we get to work with an amazing chaplain team at Wheeler—by name Alvin, Jeremiah, Joe, Luke, Pete, Rich
- Praise that Rich's Religious Affairs NCO had a successful transition back to the mainland and that he was promoted to Staff Sergeant!
- Spiritual warfare continues to rage. There are spiritual strongholds on the island due to native island religions and the influence of Asian religions. Pray that the Lord would shackle these rulers and principalities.
- Pray for God's continued provision for us as HI is a tremendously expensive place to live. Also pray that Jeanna would feel financially secure enough to pursue her master's degree (MBA in non-profit business).





It was a treat to see y'all whether you visited us or we visited you during these last 6 months! Here's some picture highlights!



Decorating Easter eggs with our first HI hotel friends



Visiting Grandpa and Grandma and Uncle Greg and Auntie MJ in MN



4th of July with our friends from FT Leonard Wood—also stationed here.



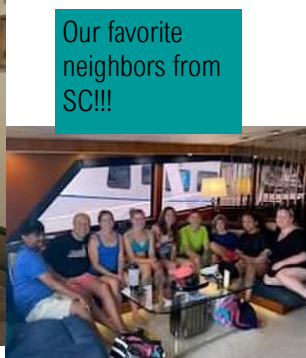
Homecoming at Concordia Jr./Sr. High!



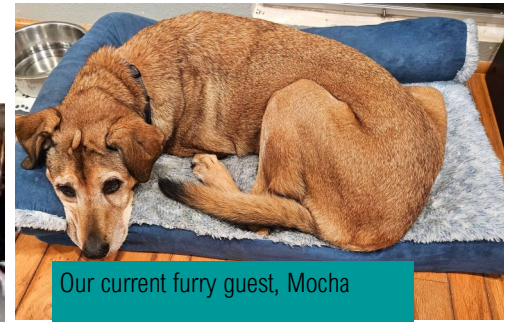
Last day with the boys I nannied



Visit from G and G Baldwin



Our favorite neighbors from SC!!!



Our current furry guest, Mocha



## Contact:

Our Address is  
92-1286 Kikaha St.  
Unit #85  
Kapolei, HI, 96707

Email:  
Rich.baldwin.310@gmail.com  
jeannab789@gmail.com  
Phone:  
Rich-(402)973-0877  
Jeanna-(402)973-0897

Mahalo (Thank you) all for your patience in waiting for this newsletter! And Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers for us. We covet it all and we are definitely being carried through because of you.

