Be what we are

By Chaplain Donald Moss

There is an old story about a stonemason who wasn't happy about what he was. He didn't like the hard work and long hours. He didn't like the stone dust and the ringing sound in his ears. He dreamed of the day he could be a rich man and not have to do the same old, hot and dirty work.

He said to himself, "I wish I were a rich man." Immediately a voice came and said, "You are what you say." He was, instantaneously, a rich man living in a wonderfully rich house. He loved the rich foods and the beautiful surroundings. As time passed, however, he began to be bored. Being rich, there wasn't much to do.

One day, he heard the sound of trumpets and drums. He went to the window to see what all the commotion was about. What he saw was a king going by. The man immediately wanted to be a king because kings have something to do. A voice came and said, "You are what you say." Instantaneously, he was a king. He loved being a king. Everyone treated him with great respect and his every wish was obeyed. As time passed, however, the constant need to attend to business was getting to be too much. He was getting tired of being pestered all the time.

One day, he was at a window and noticed beautiful clouds drifting by. He noticed how peaceful the clouds were and wanted to be a cloud. He wanted to drift along and have some peace. So, a voice came and said, "You are what you say." Immediately, he became a cloud drifting along without a trouble in the world.

Before long, however, the temperature began to change and the cloud began to condense into rain. Our man began turning into rain falling to the earth. He began to splash against a large rock, a beautiful boulder of marble. As he splashed against the marble, he began to wish he was a stone. The stone was so solid, so permanent. Stones have been around a long time and are likely to last forever, unlike a cloud. So, he began to wish he was a stone. Immediately, a voice came and said, "You are as you say." He was turned in to a beautiful boulder of marble.

He was happy for a long time, but, one day, a man came to look at him. The man had a hammer and a chisel. The man began to chip away at him. So, he began thinking he would like to be like the man. Being a stone was not so permanent after all. A man could break him up into hundreds of pieces. So, he decided he wanted to be like the man. Immediately, a voice came and said, "You are what you say." And so, he once again became a stonemason. This time, however, he was happy. He was happy because he became what he was supposed to be all along, himself.

The moral of the story is that we should be grateful for whom and what we are. Our faith teaches us that we are special to God. We are all equally special, as we are. We are all valuable to God, but not more valuable than someone else. We are precious to God just as we are.

Head's Up Yokosuka!

Community Announcements

Tobacco use on base – Tobacco use is the single largest cause of preventable premature mortality in the U.S. among adults. Smoking-related health care and productivity loss cost the Department of Defense (DoD) nearly a billion dollars each year. Cigarette smoking may cause heart disease, several kinds of cancer, and chronic lung disease. Because the health of tobacco users is adversely affected and because the health of all personnel must be protected by providing a safe, healthy and non-polluted workplace, the Navy's vision is to be tobacco free. Time spent for tobacco use shall occur only during approved break periods . Tobacco use is prohibited during time authorized for physical fitness, training and conditioning. Smokeless tobacco use is only permitted in designated tobacco use areas. Where smokeless tobacco use is permitted, tobacco spit shall be held in containers with sealing lids to prevent odor and accidental spills. The distance from building entry/egress which tobacco users must maintain is to be determined by commanding officers and must be at least 50 feet from any building entrance.

Month of the Military Child Appreciation Meal – Please join us for a special appreciation meal in celebration of Diversity and Military Child Month April 15 from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Commodore Matthew C. Perry General Mess. Cost is $4.25 and is open to all military and civilian personnel.

Month of the Military Child Contest – Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Yokosuka invites all Yokosuka, Ikego and Negishi school age children to enter the "What does it mean to be a military child" contest. You can write an essay, poem or a top 10 list on what it means to be a military child. Entries must be received at FFSC, 2nd floor of Building 1555 by 4 p.m. April 22. If you are mailing in your entry, send it to: Fleet and Family Support Center, PSC 473 Box 116, FPO AP 96349-0116. The best entry and a first and second place runner up will be selected by a committee and will be announced April 24. Contact Bessie Smith at 243-9632 or Robyn Wilson at 243-7878 for more information.

USNH Yokosuka Health Care Consumer Council – The Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Yokosuka, will host a Health Care Consumer Council April 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the hospital's command auditorium. The meeting is open to all beneficiaries and will address a variety of health care topics. Call USNH Yokosuka at 243-8740 for more information.

Compass Program Class – The next available class will be held May 27 through 29 at the Chapel of Hope in classrooms 2 and 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Free lunch provided and childcare reimbursed. Compass is a peer-to-peer mentorship program designed to help Navy spouses adapt to military life. Contact Shelle at 264-7270, Marina at 246-7766 or visit the Compass Web site at www.gocompass.org for more information or to register for the class.

American Red Cross Community Courses and Training – If you'd like to become a volunteer, register to attend one of our volunteer orientations held the first and third Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. Call 243-7490 for more information or come and register in our office located on the 2nd floor of the Community Center.

Yokosuka begins student registration for 2009/2010 school year

By Department of Defense Dependent Schools

Registration for the 2009-2010 school year is underway throughout the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) Pacific area. The reason for spring registration is to have accurate and complete school enrollments. These numbers assist principals, district superintendents and Pacific area officials in allocating resources to support highest student achievement. This process is critical for schools since funding and staffing authorizations are based on enrollment and enrollment projections, and school schedules are built on the projected number of students. Parents are urged to complete their children's registration as soon as possible.

School principals and school office staffs across the Pacific are working diligently to ensure that the pre-registration process is efficient and customer-service oriented. Some paperwork can be prepared in advance, but all parents will need to visit their children's schools to finalize the registration process. Kindergarten registration will be available for children who will be age 5 by September 1, 2009. New students that register will need sponsor orders/extension or verification of employment, birth certificate or passport, social security number, Immunization records and a copy of current housing assignment letter or off base housing lease. Sure Start applications will also be available for students who will be age 4 by Sept. 1, 2009.

Eligibility to enroll in DoDDS is based on the documentation provided at the time of enrollment. Prior to registration, space-required sponsors must have current orders from military personnel, or in the case of a DoD civilian, current orders from their employing agency. Military and civilian sponsors need to show a copy of tour extensions if sponsors projected rotation Date (PRD) expires before the beginning of the school year.

Sponsors will be asked to revalidate current information including current quarters address, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and emergency contacts. If your quarters have changed, please bring the current on-base housing assignment letter or off-base lease with a map to the appropriate address. Active duty sponsors must bring a copy of extension orders if their orders will expire before August 31, 2009. Civilian sponsors must bring current year Certificate of Employment letter to verify full-time employment or renewal agreement travel orders.

The following is the school registration schedule for Yokosuka and Ikego:

• Ikego Elementary School: April 21-23, 8 - 11 a.m. and noon - 2:30 p.m.

• The Sullivans Elementary School: April 21-24, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

• Yokosuka Middle School: April 21-24, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

• Nile C. Kinnick High School: April 21-24, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Immunizations required for school will be available during registration, as well. Parents need to bring the updated shot records with them.

Call your child's school or the district office at 225-3940 for more information.

Dress code enforced

By Shelly Kennedy,
Kinnick High School Assistant Principal

In order to ensure Nile C. Kinnick High School (KHS) students are in compliance with both Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) and KHS dress codes, KHS is implementing a new campaign to effectively enforce the dress code.

If a teacher identifies a student not within dress code standards, he or she will be sent to the office and punishment, in accordance with the school dress code policy, will strictly be enforced. The dress code policy can be found in the KHS student handbook.

As the weather gets warmer, students have a tendency to dress in a more relaxed fashion, wearing shorts that are too short and tops that are too revealing. Parents, please work with your students to ensure they are wearing appropriate attire for school.

Our goal is to help our students remain focused on the task at hand, getting the best education available.