Paradise regained

By Chaplain Donald Moss

I heard a story that comes from the Middle East. It is about a man with a wife and several children. Unfortunately, the man became unhappy with his marriage and his family. He longed for something better. He wanted to go to heaven where everything is perfect.

He went to the village prophet and asked for directions to heaven. The prophet pointed him in the right direction. The man began to walk and stayed his course, making sure he kept going the right direction. He continued his journey until it became dark.

Since he could no longer see his route, he decided to stay in a local inn. As he prepared for bed, he took off his shoes and pointed them in the right direction. He wanted to make suse he would continue on the same direction as he had been going.

Unfortunately, a very naughty devil sneaked into his room and turned his shoes around (You know devils do not like anyone going to heaven). So, when he awoke, he jumped into his shoes and headed in the direction they were pointing, that is, back home.

As he traveled, he noticed that everything looked familiar. That made him feel happy because he hoped heaven would be comfortable and not strange. As he approached a village, he noticed it looked like his own village. That also made him feel very happy because it was as he had hoped.

Finally, he saw a house that looked like his own house. He entered the house because he certainly wanted to be comfortable in paradise. To his surprise, a woman and some children were in the house. The man was filled with joy because he was so pleased that his family could be with him in paradise.

I guess it comes down to how we see things. What we believe also shapes our perspective. The man thought he was in paradise. So, the things that should have made him happy from the start finally did make him happy when he saw it all through the eyes of faith.

Head's Up Yokosuka

Community Announcements

Kurihama Beach Clean Up – A community relations (COMREL) clean up event will be held at Kurihama Beach July 4 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The meeting place will be across from Perry Park where a "red flag" will be set up as a landmark. Attendees should bring their own gloves, hat, towel, sun screen, etc. Parking is limited so carpooling or using public transportation is highly recommended. There is no pre-sign up, just show up at the meeting place at the designated date and time. In the event of rain, the clean up will be cancelled. Detailed information and directions to the event are available by going to https://www.cnic.navy.mil/navycni/groups/public/@pub/@japan/@yokosuka/documents/document/kurihamacleanup.pps or by calling Fumiyo Sato at 243-2566.

The Yard of the Month Program – The program recognizes the efforts by residents in the beautification of their yards and provide incentive to maintain high standards throughout our community. Winners are selected the first week of each month through September. You must reside on base; in a single detached unit or town house for at least 60 days from the selection week to be eligible to participate in the program. Selection criteria are:

- Lawn should be neatly mowed at a height of approximately 2-4 inches, free of weeds and debris and neatly edged along all boarders, fences, walks and parking areas.
- Grass should be consistently green throughout the lawn area.
- Flower beds should be cultivated and free of grass and weeds.
- Shrubs and flowers will be neatly pruned. Dead leaves branches, and dead or unhealthy vegetation should be removed.
- Candidates cannot have received a yard violation notice within the previous three months.

For more information contact the resident liaison at 243-9067.

American Red Cross Community Courses and Training – Yokosuka Red Cross needs volunteers. Whether you want to teach a class, read to a child or offer a helping hand, Yokosuka Red Cross is the place for you. Do your orientation online. Download a volunteer application at www.yokoarc.org or call Yokosuka Red Cross at 243-7490 for more information.