Paradise Regained

By Chaplain Donald Moss

I heard a story is set in the Middle East. It is about a man with a wife and several children. Unfortunately, the man became unhappy with his marriage and with his family. He longed for something better. He wanted to go to heaven where everything was 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, staying his course and making sure that he was going in 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 sure he would continue in the same direction 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 that it looked like his own village. That made him feel very happy because heaven was much like what he had always imagined.

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, his wife and 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 beginning finally did make him happy, when he saw them with the eyes of faith.

Heads Up Yokosuka

Community Announcements

Chapel of Hope Holiday Worship Schedule – The following is the Chapel of Hope Holiday Worship Service and Catholic Mass schedules:

Protestant Worship Schedule

- Dec. 13, 5 p.m. - International Christmas Celebration
- Dec. 24, 7 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec. 31, 10 p.m. - Watch Night Celebration, Gospel Praise Service

Catholic Mass Schedule

- Dec. 12, noon - Guadalupe
- Dec. 12, 6 p.m. - Guadalupe Fiesta
- Dec. 13, 5 p.m. - International Christmas Celebration
- Dec. 16-23, 5:30 p.m. - Simbang Gabi
- Dec. 24, 5 p.m. - Children's Mass
- Dec. 24, midnight - Midnight Mass
- Dec. 25, 9 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass
- Jan. 1, 9 and 11 a.m. - Holy Day Mass

Contact the Chapel of Hope at 243-6773 for more information.

The Yokosuka Semper Fi Society Toys for Tots Campaign – The Yokosuka Semper Fi Society is collecting new, unwrapped toys for children in local group homes, hospitals, single-parent military families in Yokosuka and orphanages in surrounding countries. Donation boxes are located at the Navy Exchange in Yokosuka, Ikego and Negishi. The last day to donate is Dec. 20. Contact Sgt. Ato Waithe at 243-6303 for more information.

National Military Family Association (NMFA) Scholarship Fund – NMFA scholarship funds are awarded only to military ID card carrying uniformed services' spouses of active duty, retiree, reserve, National Guard and, or survivor. Scholarships of up to $10,000 are awarded to obtain professional certification or to attend post-secondary or graduate school. The scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees and school room and board for: GED or ESL; vocational training; professional certification; post-secondary school; graduate school; in class or on line; and - full time or part time. To apply for the NMFA scholarship fund, submit your online application at www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/military-spouse-scholarships/ between now and Jan. 31, 2010. Contact Navy College Office Senior Education Technician Cynthia Cross by e-mail to cynthia.cross@fe.navy.mil or call 243-3255 for more information.