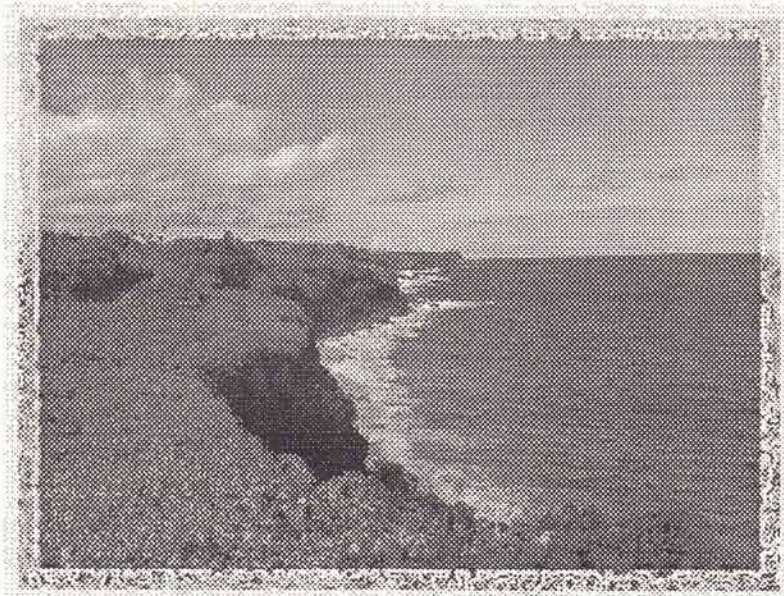


SDA
Kinship

Connection

Volume 23 - Number 5

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KAMPMEETING 2000 HAWAII



SDA KINSHIP

INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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INFORMATION

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Submissions of letters, articles, pictures, art, and other graphics are welcome. Include your NAME AS YOU WANT IT PUBLISHED, address, email address if applicable, and telephone number. If you are using a pseudonym, please indicate that. The Connection will publish things anonymously if the editor knows who the author is. If an item is to be acknowledged or returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The Connection editor reserves the right to edit manuscripts for length, syntax, grammar, and clarity. Address all submissions to the Connection, PO BOX 7320, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607. Inquiries and articles may also be emailed to: RomWilder@aol.com.

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WHO WE ARE...

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International, Inc. is a support group which ministers to the spiritual, emotional, social, and physical well-being of Seventh-day Adventist lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered and intergendered persons, and their families and friends.

SDA Kinship facilitates and promotes the understanding and affirmation of g/l/b/t/i Adventists and among themselves and within the SDA community through education, advocacy, and reconciliation.

Founded in 1976, the non-profit organization was incorporated in 1981 and has a board of 15 officers and 10 regional coordinators.

SDA Kinship believes the Bible does not condemn, or even mention, homosexuality as a sexual orientation. Ellen G. White does not parallel any of the Bible texts which are often used to condemn homosexuals. Most of the anguish imposed upon God's children who grow up gay or lesbian has its roots in a misunderstanding of what the Bible says.

SDA Kinship supports the advancement of human rights for all people. SDA Kinship can be found on the internet at www.sdakinship.org.

SUPPORT KINSHIP...

SDA Kinship depends on you because it is supported solely by contributions. Help us reach out to more gay Adventists by making a tax-deductible donation to SDA Kinship International. Please send your check or money order to this address: SDA Kinship, PO Box 7320, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607. [telephone: 949-248-1299]

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Some of the SDA Kinship International Board Members - Hawaii - July/August 2000
Back row: Melba L., Yolanda Elliott, Karen Lee, Rom Wilder, Michael McLaughlin, Larry Whitford
Front row: John Young, Charles Shobe, Rob DePew, Robb Crouch

Throughout this issue you will see faces and words about this year's Kampmeeting, held July 30 - August 6 at Kalani, a gay friendly conference/retreat center south of Hilo on The Big Island (Hawaii).

Special thanks to photographers:

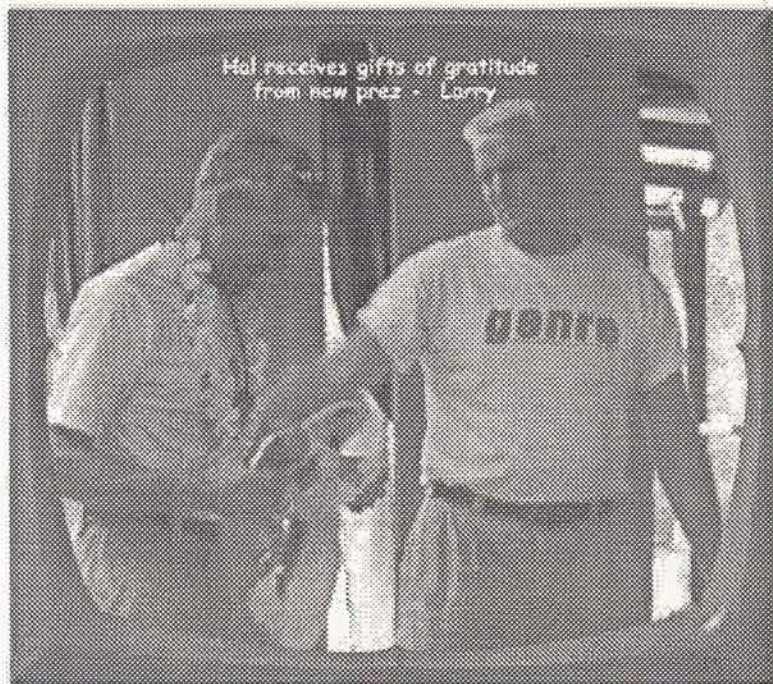
John Wieland, Jackie Summerton, and Denise Proulx

And to those who graciously answered my questions and shared their thoughts:

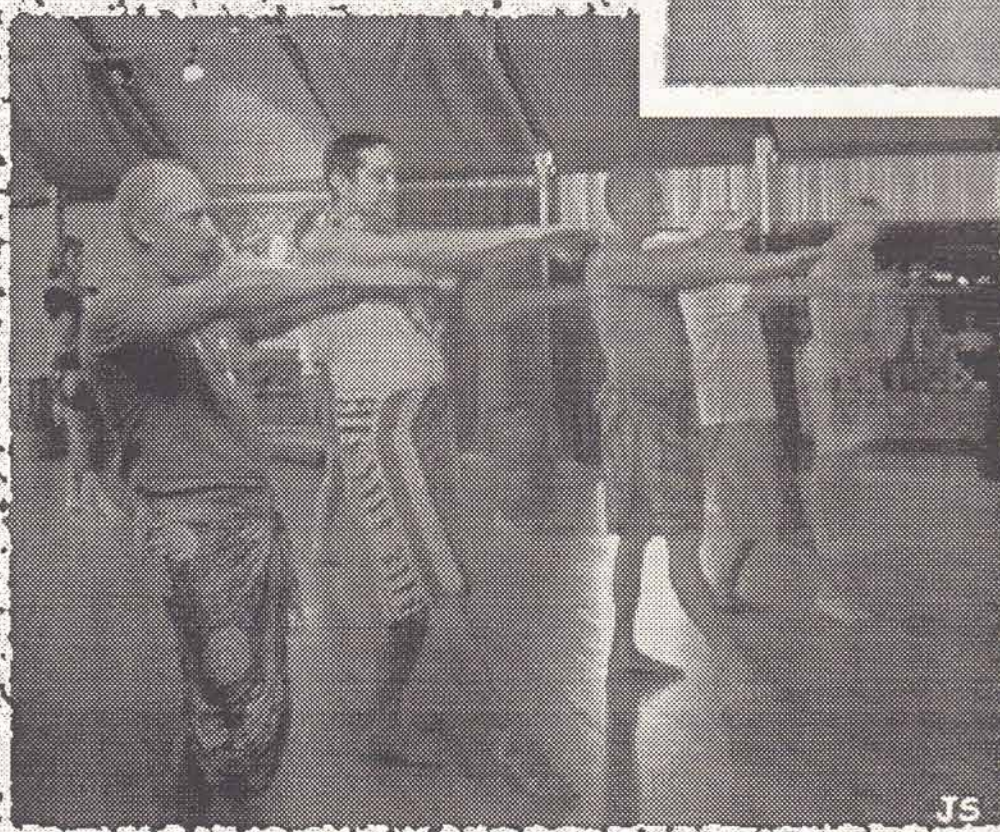
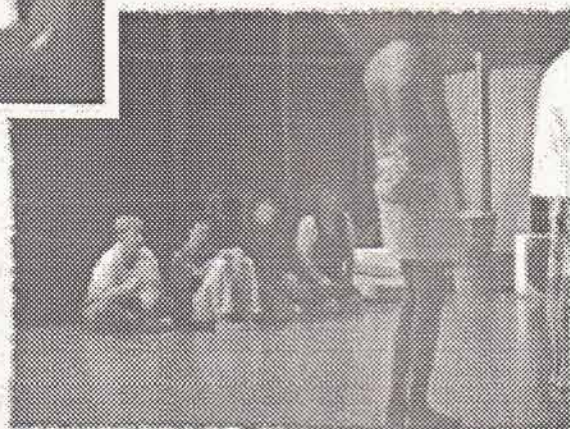
Michael McLaughlin, Char Ank, Terry Hume, Leif Lind, Brian White, Aussie Guy, Kurt Gillen, Samuel P.

Sadly, some people have needed to ask that images of their faces be blurred or changed so that their lives won't be impacted negatively - either fiscally or emotionally - by those who are unaware of their being a part of Kinship. Personally, I can hardly wait for the day when people can have full-page photos (see page 6) when they are with the person they've chosen to spend their lives with. We have Kinship members who have been with their partners for more than 30 years. I honor those people, their commitments in spite of societal rejection, and hope that knowing this and seeing the photos of Karen & Pearl's commitment ceremony (truly a Holy Union) will be encouragement and affirmation for each of you as you move along your life path, making what are often difficult choices.

Now it's time to sit back and enjoy these photos ... poor quality though they might be at this point ... and start a little savings account for next year's Kampmeeting in Oregon. ~ Rom Wilder

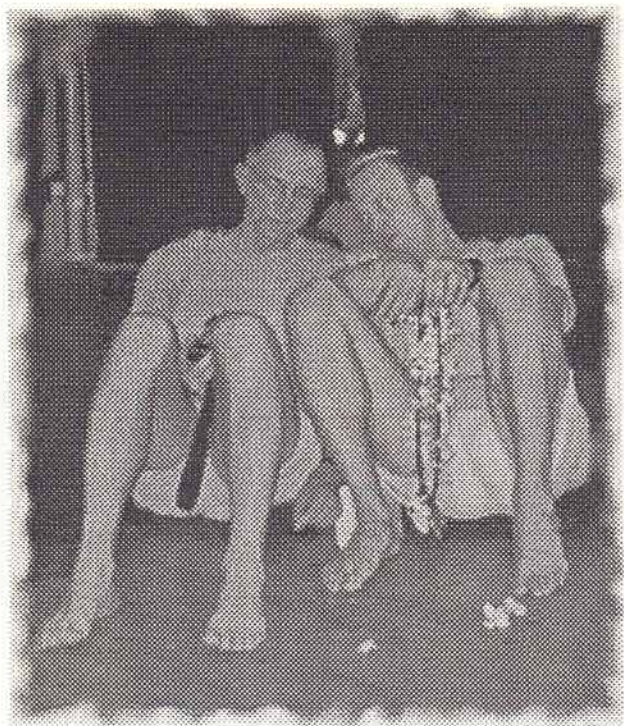


Hal receives gifts of gratitude
from new prez - Larry

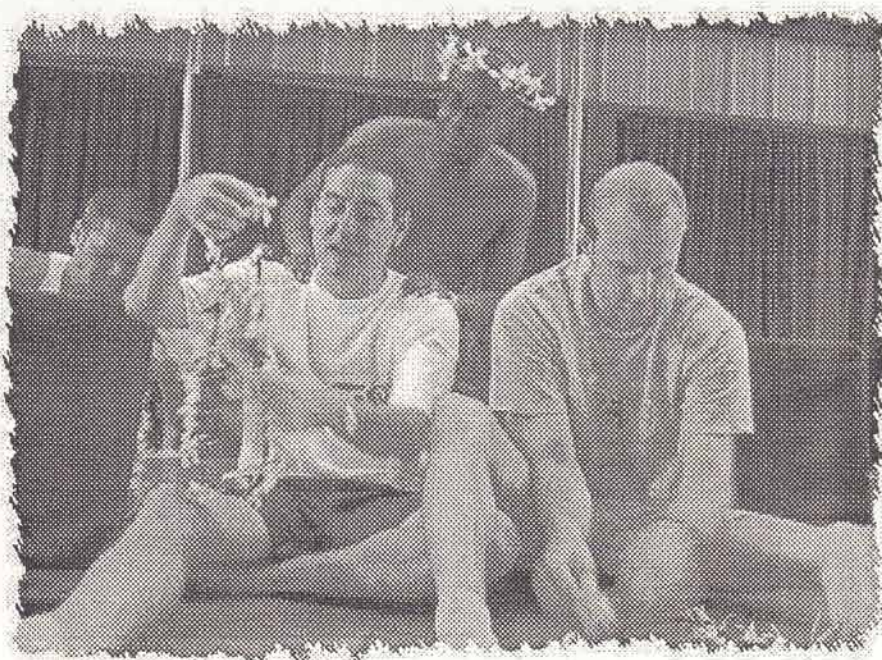


The hula
lessons and
lei making
were
entertaining
and there
was just
enough
religion to
make it
Kampmeeting.
~BW

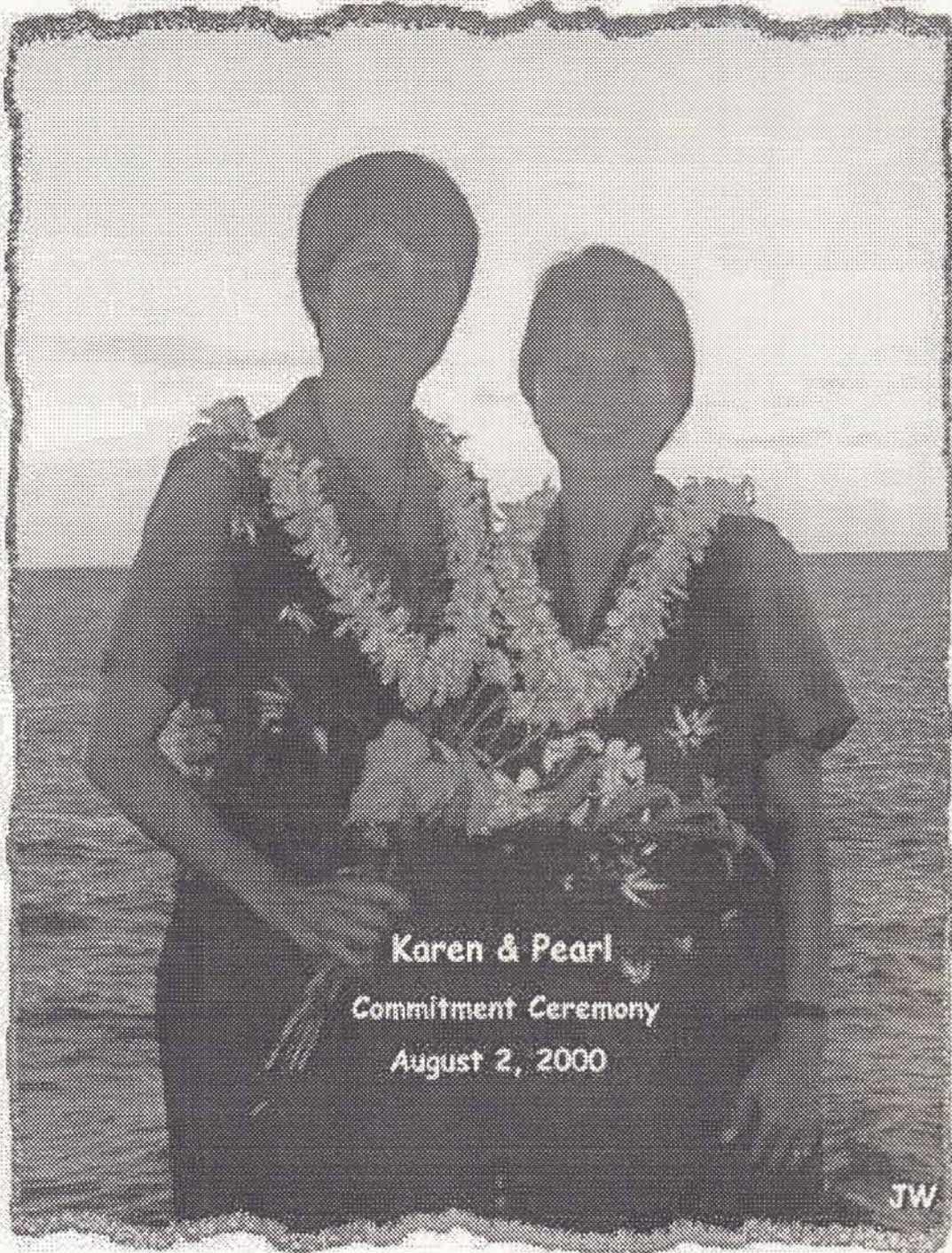
JS



The community spirit and camaraderie that develops at Kampmeeting is invaluable to our community. ~ MM



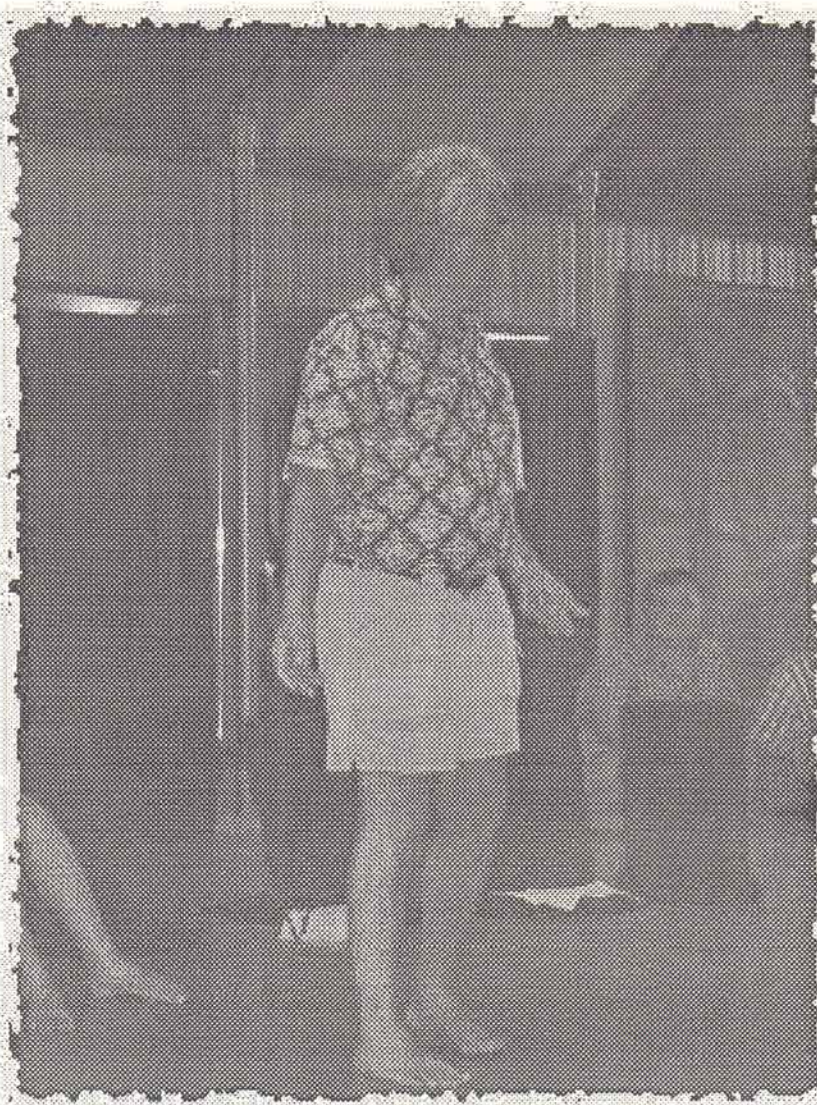
The commitment ceremony was wonderful. - BW



The most special event at KM this year was attending Karen & Pearl's commitment ceremony. That was such a heartwarming event in the most fabulous setting! That videoclip" in my mind will stay with me till the day I die!
- SP



Since my first Kamp-meeting in 1983, I have attended a total of 16 or 17 Kamp-meetings to date, missing only one or two. I was the very youngest person at KM in 1983, and now I'm one of the "old-timers." (Shudder!) ~SP



Probably the most noticeable difference this year was the freer atmosphere, the not-so-concentrated program for the week.

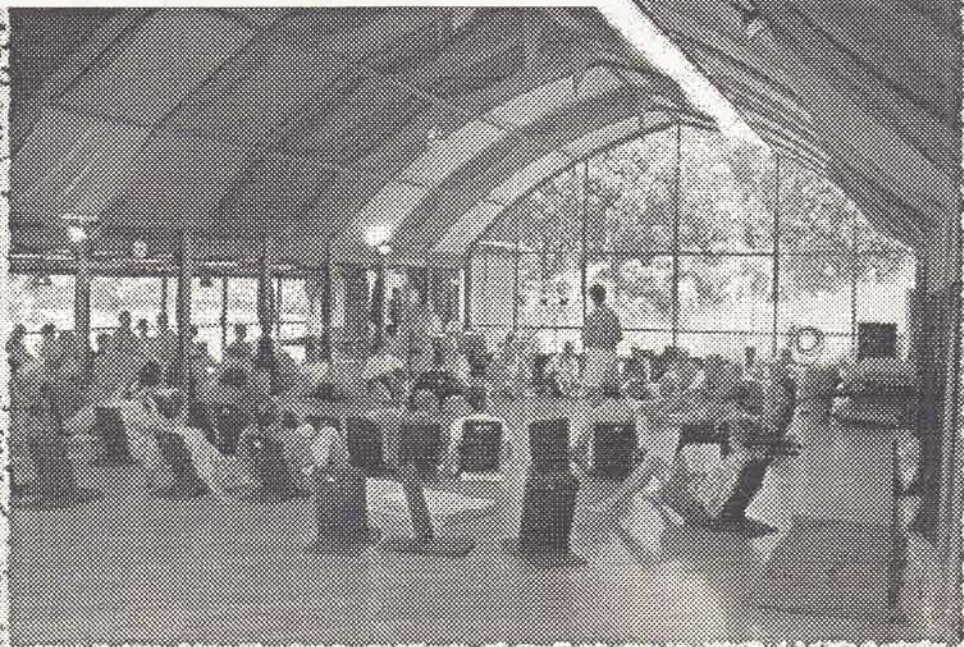
This left time for more typical sightseeing, etc. which was quite appropriate considering the location.

However, I personally felt there could have been more use made of our guest speaker. ~LL

QUESTION:

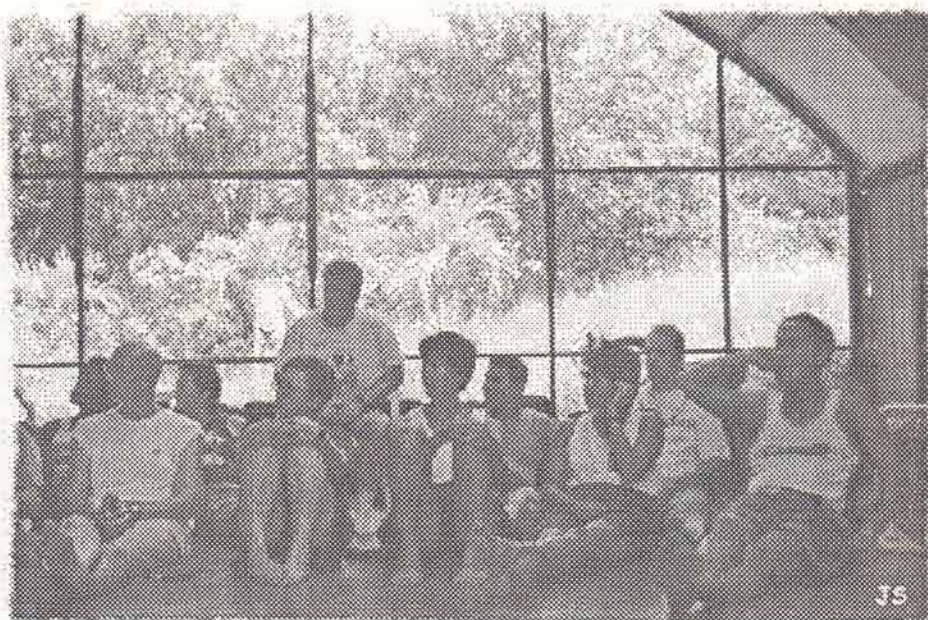
Rudy, may we use your name and photos in the Connection?

ANSWER: Yes, please use any photos of me you want and attach my name where appropriate. I'm proud to be associated with the great people of Kinship.





Here's the man who will be coordinating next year's Kampmeeting at Menucha. Please give Rob Depew your support and share with him your ideas for the 2001 KM!!

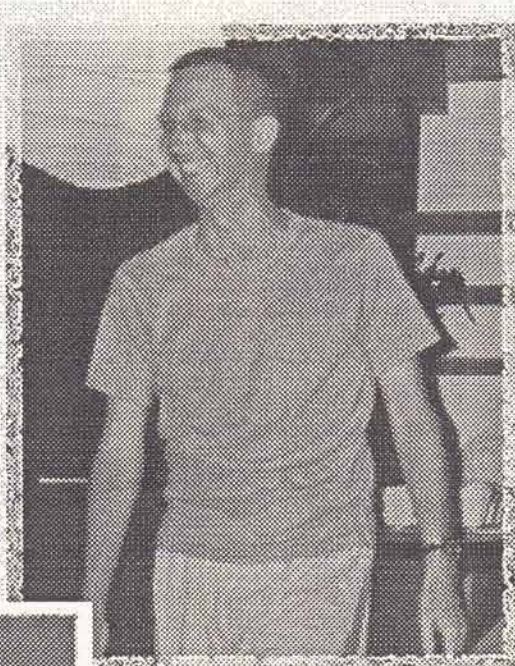


The emphasis this year was on our Kinship family and not on trying to prove our rightness to the radical right. We had a great family vacation with a healthy dose of spirituality thrown in. ~ MM





Charlie is surprised and dismayed to find his old pal Kurt (aka Mrs. Potts) has arrived before he has as they both attempt to deal with Pelé's Revenge. (See last page for Kurt's version of this story!)

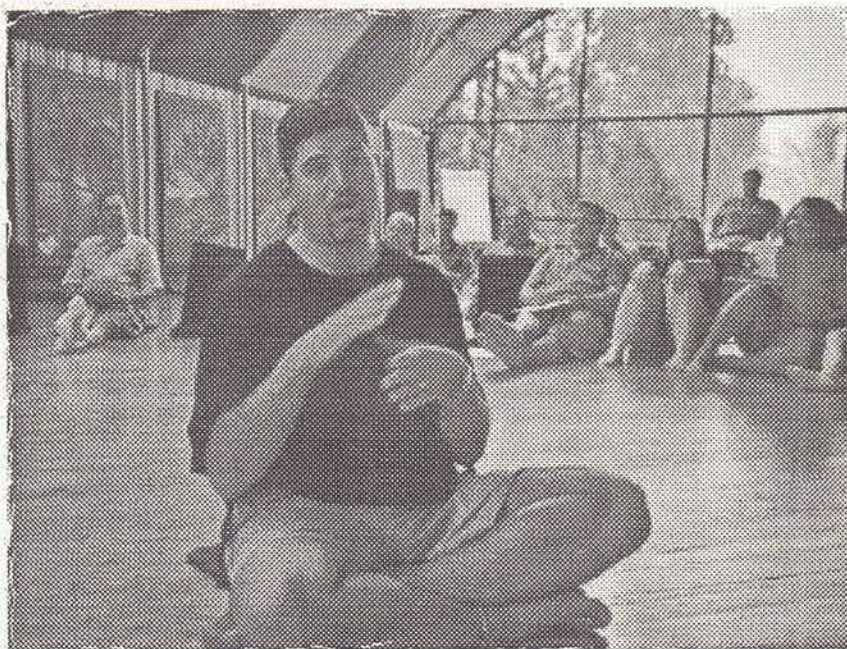


You've Got to Walk Feminine



Mrs. Potts tries to teach his estrogen laden housemates how to 'walk feminine.' Alas, his success was only moderate!!

Most meaningful [part of KM] would have to be sharing housing space with the women. I don't know that I would have chosen that and I feel very honored that it happened. It's a trend I'd like to see continue. ~KG



I was so grateful that Kinship provided an interpreter for me so I could follow what was said. ~DP

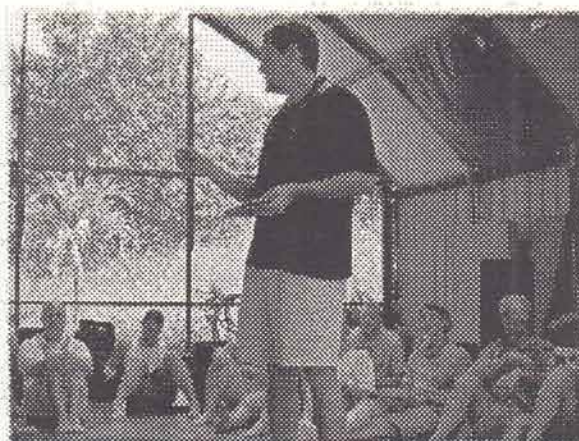
Eeyore, Pooh, and Tigger attended some of the activities ... disguised as Rom, Denise, and Corey (the very patient partner of the sign language interpreter, Scott ... see previous page).



I enjoyed the fact that while there was of course spiritual time with meetings on some of the days, this Kampmeeting was also vacation with lots of time for sightseeing and snorkeling etc.....(who would want to spend a whole week in Hawaii and just sit in meetings?) The fact that my vacation time and budget is limited Kampmeeting gave me the opportunity to have the best of both.....time with the many friends I've made over the years at various Kampmeetings and an AWESOME vacation location. ~BW

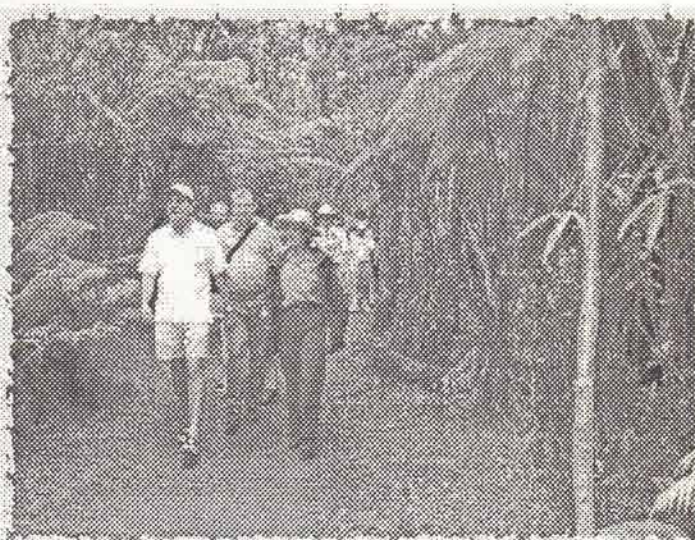


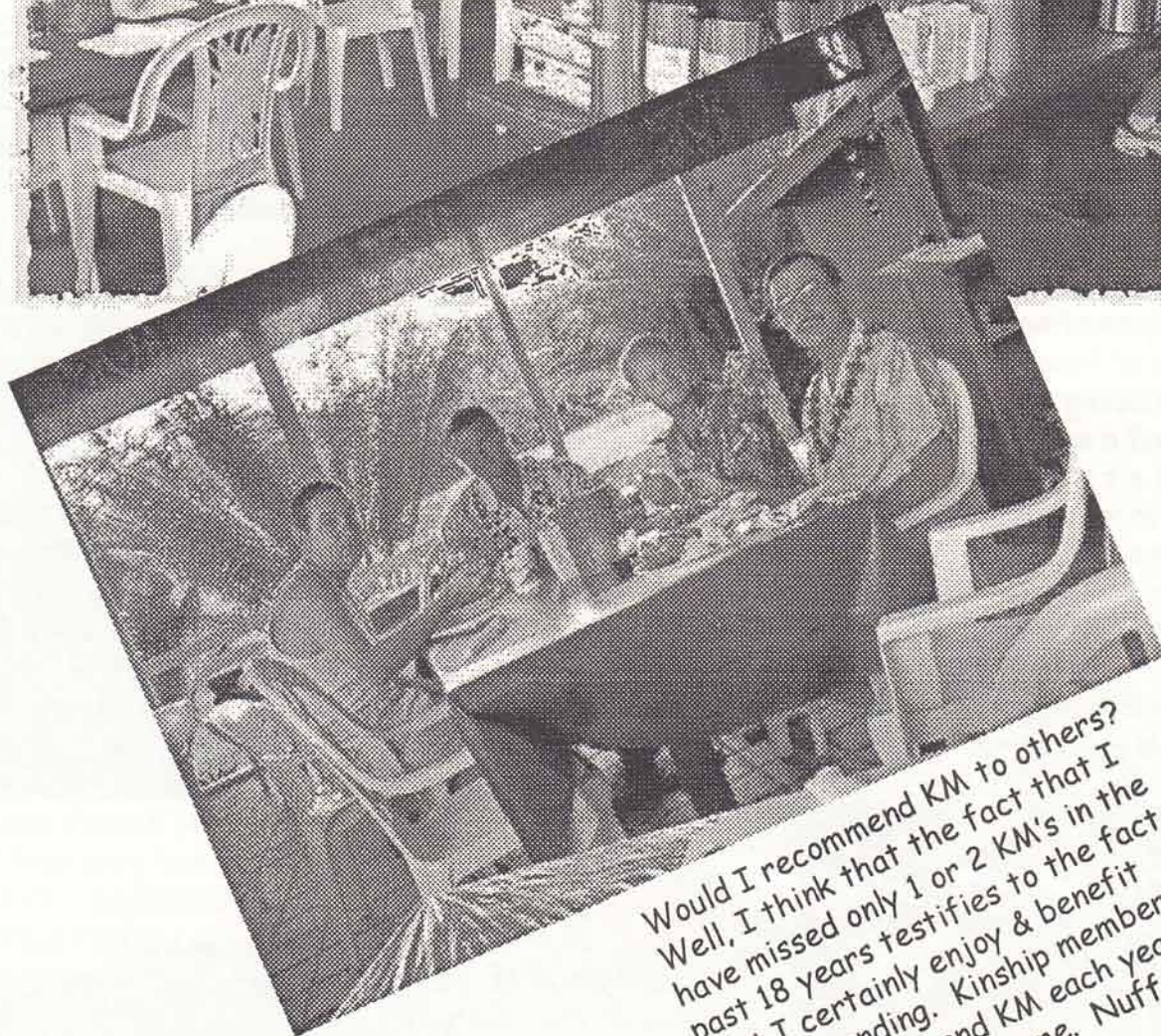
Matt and a friend run from Pelé. (OK, maybe they weren't really running from the volcano, but it makes good copy!!)



For "Sabbath School" Michael handed out postcards for people to write out questions for specific persons or comments.

It was a terrific way to get to know more about individuals. It was also how we found out there were four Shenandoah graduates there, none of whom should quit their day jobs to go into the field of professional singing!





Would I recommend KM to others?
Well, I think that the fact that I
have missed only 1 or 2 KM's in the
past 18 years testifies to the fact
that I certainly enjoy & benefit
from attending. Kinship members
are my family, and KM each year is
a family reunion for me. Nuff said.
~ SP

QUESTION: Since this was your first KM, did you feel welcome?

ANSWER: I felt welcome. I was included in everything. Lots of fun, good conversation, and I thoroughly enjoyed the humor and laughter.

~CA



Kampmeeting is the best experience. It is one thing to talk with people on the internet, to know that Kinship is out there for you, but it is a totally different thing to see live, flesh and blood glbt Adventists who you can interact with and learn from. There is no substitute for in person communication with all of these wonderful people. - AG

QUESTION: Was it worth the cost for you?

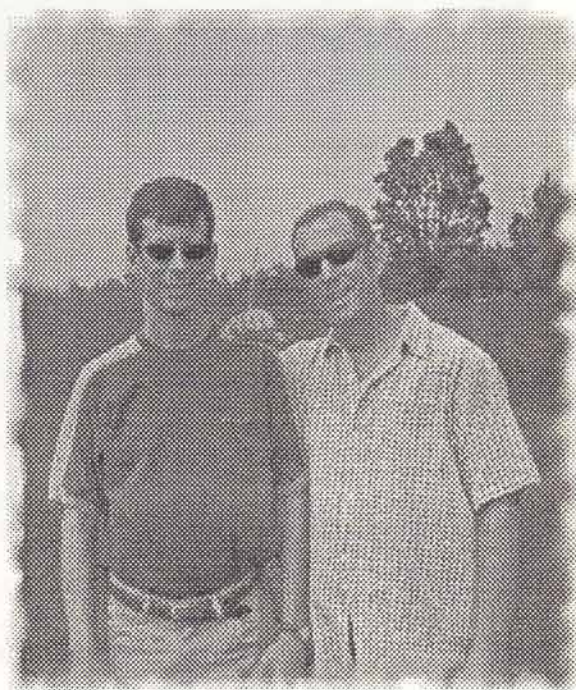
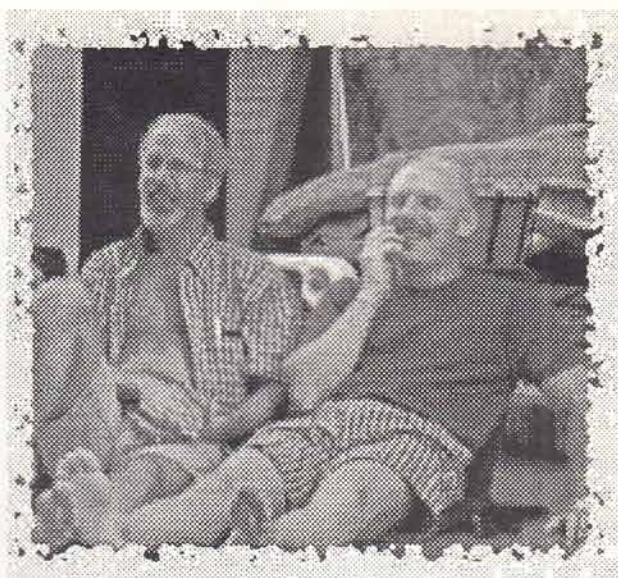
ANSWER: DEFINITELY! I was creative and found a way! I was going to Calif anyway and when you could fly roundtrip from LA for \$327 that was a "no-brainer."

QUESTION: Do you plan to attend another KM?

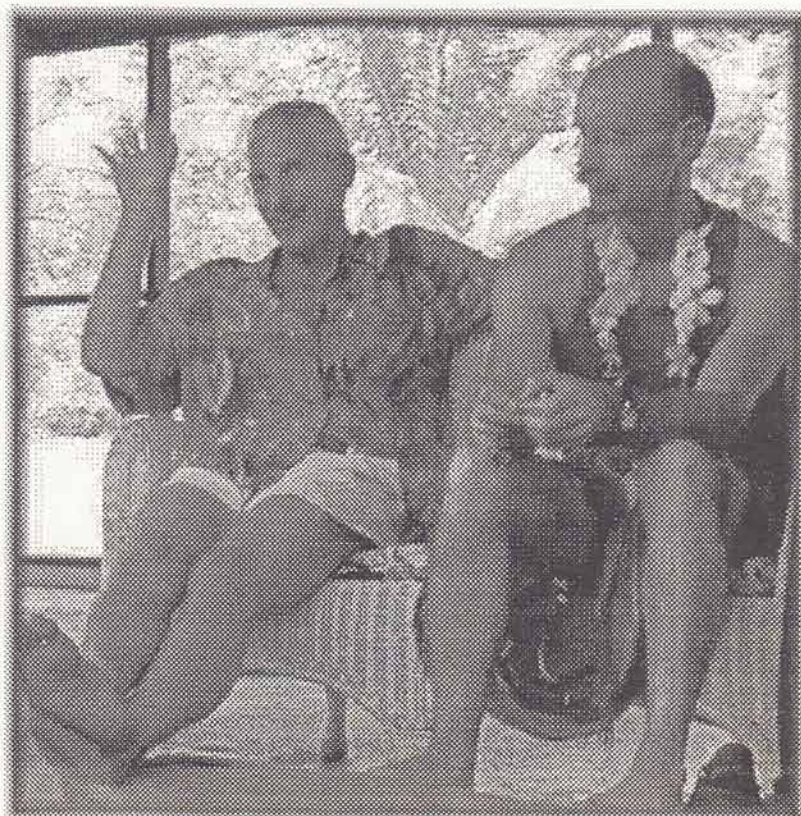
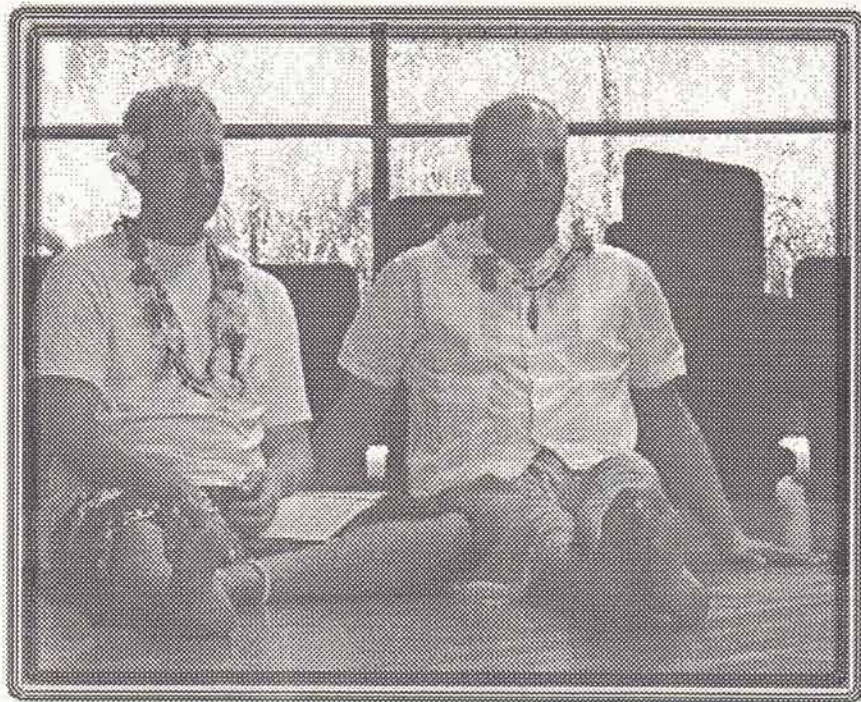
ANSWER: I wouldn't miss it! ~ TH



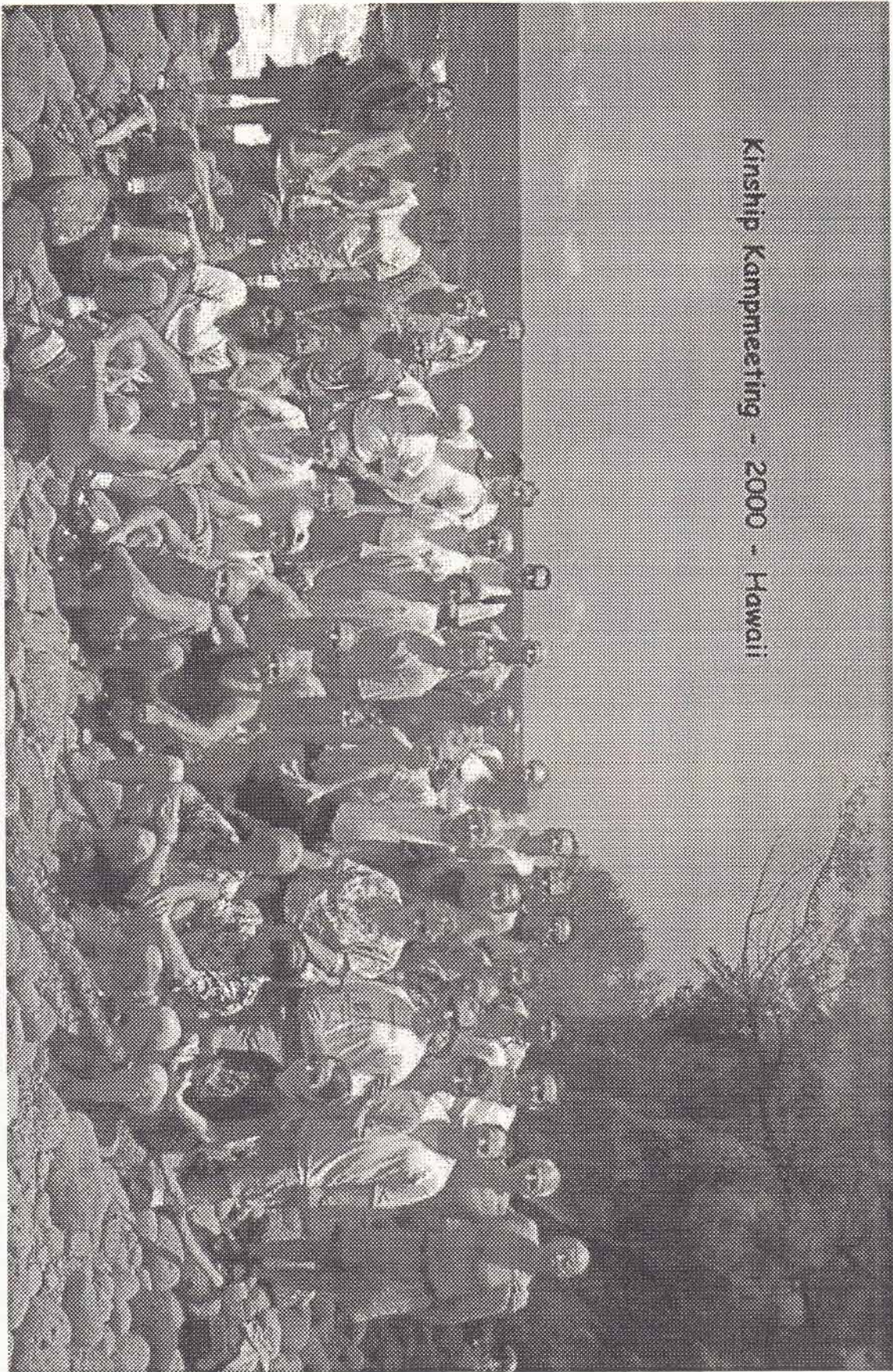
We were all able to "be ourselves" for a whole week! Can you imagine that? Being able to hold hands while walking, kissing and hugging each other (and everyone else for that matter), ~SB



I was also inspired by the couples that I saw there. It was so nice to see examples of what can (and hopefully will) be for my boyfriend and me. So many times gay relationships are laughed at and stereotyped as being long term if they last for longer than 3 weeks, but Kampmeeting gives me hope and encouragement as I see people who have been together for years. It's a message that I, as a younger member of Kinship, really take to heart. - AG



Kinship Kampmeeting - 2000 - Hawaii





SDA Kinship Kampmeeting - Hawaii - Summer 2000
(the left 3rd of group photo)



SDA Kinship Kampmeeting - Hawaii - Summer 2000
(center 3rd of group photo)



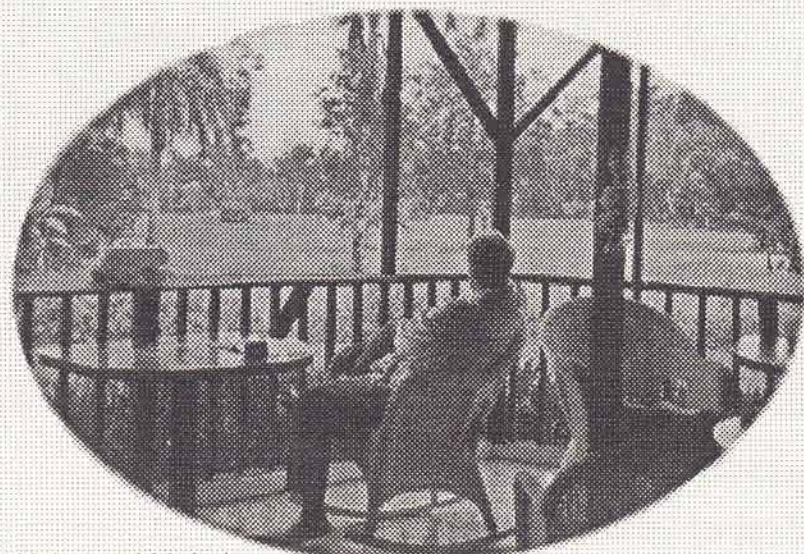
SDA Kinship Kampmeeting - Hawaii - Summer 2000
(right 3rd of group photo)

- ★ How many KM's have you attended before this one? four and a half
- ★ How did this KM compare with others? It was definitely less structured in regard to the number of meetings and activities than most Kampmeetings. However, I would like to acknowledge Michael and Hal for creating a structure that matched the laid back attitude of our surroundings. To me it felt like a vacation with eighty of my best friends.
- ★ Would you recommend others attend KMs? YES
- ★ Why or why not? For me it fulfills a need I sometimes forget I have, which is keeping in touch with my Adventist heritage. Even though I've made a personal decision to depart from the Adventist lifestyle there is something very healing about spending time with people from a common heritage. It's the equivalent of having a family who accepts you for who you are.
- ★ What were a couple of the most meaningful parts of this KM for you?
Most meaningful would have to be sharing housing space with the women. I don't know that I would have chosen that and I feel very honored that it happened. It's a trend I'd like to see continue.

OTHER MEMORIES

Char's warm hugs-
 Denise's bright smile-
 Feeling the baby move in Jill-
 Pastor Rudy (a highly evolved SDA Pastor) (explanations available upon demand)
 Rom's warmth, sense of humor and way cool Band-Aids
 Snorkeling with Jill, Joe, and Charlie. Seeing the brilliantly colored tropical fish, graceful sea turtles and ouch! very sharp coral
 Charlie & I fighting the revenge of Pele
 Facing my worst fear -- someone breaking into the bathroom while I'm trying to deal with Pele's revenge
 Driving a mustang convertible on roller coaster roads
 Laughter, laughter and more laughter
 Shirley Goodness and her sister Ann Mercy following Bob & Vince wherever they went
 Meeting Merlin's lover Arthur, (which explains why Guinevere ran off with Sir Lancelot)
 Helicopter ride over an active Volcano
 The Saturday night pool party (it got risque to say the least)
 The sadness of leaving, mixed with the anticipation for next year
 And no more *@% toful

- ★ Was it worth the cost for you? YES
 - ★ Why or why not? One cannot put a price on connecting with other people at the level one does at Kampmeeting, and for everything else there is VISA!
 - ★ Do you plan to attend another KM? Mrs. Potts will be there if at all possible.
- ~ Kurt Gillen



Aloha and Mahalo

Thank you, Kurt (aka "Mrs. Potts").. I just had to put ALL your answers in herel

As I sat in a comfy wicker rocker at Kalani, I thought a lot about this incredible Kinship Family.

Please put "Menucha" on your calendar. As Mrs. Potts put it:

"One cannot put a price on connecting"