

KAHU KORNER



A Message from Kahu

SELF-CARE

When I was an associate conference minister at the Hawai'i Conference office, I heard a term called, "Self-Care." I didn't get it or thought it necessary for several different reasons. It was the talk of the denomination. It was the main attraction at clergy retreats. It became a lot of things to an inner circle of people. I'm not saying this is a bad thing. I'm saying that I was still a baby in the clergy world and was eager to do anything and everything I could to spread the word of God to as many as I could, all the time.

Over the years, the UCC developed a Community of Practice (COP) for the associate conference ministers. It created small group settings of five or six people from different conferences around the denomination once a month. We discussed our work, our home life and our personal life. I began to understand that this COP became a safe place to talk about real issues, real hurts, real caring. It was more than just a bible study group or a bunch of friends getting together. It was an intentional self-care group whose main purpose was to assist each of us in presenting our work-related issues, discussing it amongst people in the same job who gave testimony on how they handled that situation, setting each of us to action, charging us to claim one day to release ourselves from the joys and burdens of our work, then setting us loose after a roundtable prayer where we each prayed for the other.

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I realize that every occupation has its idiosyncratic ways and obstacles, and the life of a clergy is no different. Similar to the health care industry, church ministry is a 24-7 job. But unlike other 24-7 jobs, few people are paid to perform this ministry work. In most cases there is a pastor and maybe an administrative assistant. The rest of the workers are volunteer church members who offer their free time in service to the church. If you really look at all the ministries created and the programs initiated, it is mind boggling to think it is possible to gather that amount of people to do that amount of work. But that is expectation and the reality of church work developed by people who have long gone home to be with God.

And guess what? They left us all their tools in the shed to go do the work they did. The funny part is that we willingly and unconsciously run to the shed to grab the hoe and the pitchfork and the rubber boots to till the ground so that God can bless it, without assessing the current appetites of the current generation. So when the crop is ripe for the harvest, we are wondering why no one is coming to receive the bounty we prepared. We begin to look where they all went to get fed and we see them gathered at the urban hydroponic gardens on the rooftop of the condominium next to us or at a converted factory where they have to bring in all their own tools and chairs to set the tables that will feed them. Wow, they don't want to come to a feast already prepared; they would rather work hard to prepare their own feast in a style that suits their tastes.

And so I contemplate on how I could best serve a contemporary meal to a new expectant population, when the current volunteer workforce wants to serve the same meal that their grandmother or grandfather prepared fifty years ago. I can dress it up with the modern "plating techniques" that may bring them here, but after partaking the meal, they don't return because it is not what they were expecting.

And as I lower my head to pray for guidance, I hear the Holy Spirit moving my soul to find respite. I turn to Matthew 9:35-38 which says, 35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

My heart lights up as I read verse 38. My role is to continue to pray in earnest to the Lord to send laborers into HIS harvest. We are to pray for His will to be done, not ours. We are to pray for His purpose to be displayed, not ours. We are to prepare God's feast that will feed God's people this day, just like the feast our kupuna prepared for God's people in those times past. We are to follow the footsteps of God, not the footsteps of our kupuna, because they intentionally prayed before taking their first steps and their last. They were the laborers their kupuna prayed earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send.

And where do these two stories of self-care and harvest meet? They both call upon Psalm 46:10 that says, "Be still and know that I am God." It is very difficult to hear the voice of God when I am constantly just doing the work of God. Self-care reminds me to turn off the emergency sirens of phone calls, emails, texts, meetings, and many other distractions, and just be present with myself and in myself. For it is in this Sabbath rest that God will review, reveal, renew His intentions in you. Serving without servitude to the One who sent you is pure ego. Self-care is what I had forgotten in my haste to serve.

Kahu Makuakane

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ALWAYS CHOOSE TO TRUST IN GOD

Pray for Each Other

We ask for your prayers this week July 2, 2022

We ask for the healing of our nation. As we pray once again for those who have been lost by gun violence, may our petitions lead us to action, that we will be vessels of change and peace. We ask that you guide and govern our public officials and all of our people to make this world a safer place for all children. We ask these prayers in Jesus' name. Amen. Continue to pray for Aunty Mona Joy, Uncle Ben Lum and Char Izuka and lift our prayers to Aunty Abbie Nery who has entered the heavenly kingdom.

Mr. Charles "Charlie" McAuliffe, that his lungs heal and become stronger. We pray for Mrs. Jennifer Sagan Michel, that her cancer goes into remission. We continue to pray for Mililani Byers, Ann Ishikawa, for Kapela Wong, for aunty Keala Kaimimoku, for Michael Auto Antolin, for aunty Claudette DeGarcia, and for aunty Ruby Donlin

Other family and friends who an use our prayer; the Kia'āina Ohana, the Leloy 'Ohana, Rasor 'Ohana, Elton Goo, Naliko Keli'ihō'omalū, Nancy Chaplick, Lionel Quindaca, Keith Kalani Akana, Leila Nagamine, Pat Warren, Ka'eo Kealoha-Lindsey, Kahu and Māmā Kahu Kaina, Mela Kealoha-Lindsey and 'Ohana. Those serving in the armed forces: Justin Honda, Lokahi Kanahēle, Craig Lapilio, Kala'e Leong, Keoki Leong, Patrick Ma'ae and Keelan Domingo.



PASTORS OFFICE HOURS

**Monday
through Friday**

9:00AM - 2:00 PM

Contact the Pastors office to schedule meetings either by email or calling our direct line at;

Kahu Kenneth Makuakane
Senior Pastor
Tel: 808-469-3069

Sasha Kamahele
sasha@kawaiahao.org
Tel: 808-469-3061

EXPLORE THE NIGHT SKY WITH US

STARGAZERS  OF HAWAII

OHANA NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

MONDAY JULY 4, 2022

7:30PM - 9:00PM

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED

Contact Sasha at (808) 469-3000 or
sasha@kawaiahao.org for more information



JOIN US!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MEETS AFTER CHURCH
UNDER THE PRAYER
TREE NEAR THE
HOSPITALITY TENT

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

EVERY SUNDAY

WEDDING CENTER
LANAI | 8:30AM

Healthy Mother's, Healthy Babies was in the front on Wednesday 2-4:30p administering vaccine shots to toddlers and keiki from our school and the community.



Bible Reading Plan
July 3 - 9, 2022

Monday: Isaiah 59-63

Tuesday: Isaiah 64-66

Wednesday: 2 Kings 20-21

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 32-33

Friday: Nahum 1-3

Saturday: 2 Kings 22-23;
2 Chronicles 34-35

Sunday: 34-35 Zephaniah 1-3

★ ★ *Happy* ★ ★
INDEPENDENCE
★ ★ ★ *Day!* ★ ★ ★