



Call to Stop Legalized Gambling Again

While gambling has not yet surfaced as a major issue at the Legislature to date (February 4, 2013), rumors have been floating for several months that a major push is coming. Supposedly, the Governor has said he will sign a bill if it gets to his desk; House Speaker Joe Souki has been a strong proponent for many years; and Senate President Donna Kim has expressed support for it. Also, around 30 bills have been introduced for various forms of gambling; a fair number actually are to further restrict gambling.

Anti-gambling forces are preparing to block all moves to legalize it, including the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling (HCALG), the Hawaii Family Forum, the Mormon Church, the Catholic Church, the InterFaith Alliance of Hawaii, and our own United Methodist Church, Hawaii District, among others.

The opponents are proceeding as if we are in for a difficult fight. We are even opposing bills that call for studies of the issue, as many studies have been conducted which oppose gambling.

Major points against gambling are 1) it is predatory - a win for one is clearly a loss for the other, 2) we teach our children to work hard, study hard, save, be thrifty and not depend on chance to get ahead, values that are against relying on chance out of desperation, 3) the State economy is gaining strength so the need for revenue is not pressing, 4) the lottery is a regressive tax, 5) slot machines are addictive, casino gambling cannibalizes industries like entertainment, restaurants as casinos offer cheap food, entertainment, lodging, children's activities to keep their customers in house. Hawaii's tourism depends on a strong culture, scenery, outdoor and family-oriented activities, not on capturing gamblers and draining them of all their money with little opportunity to patronize other businesses.

Under The United Methodist Church's Social Principles [Para. 163—The Economic Community; item G] it states: "Gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic and spiritual life, destructive of good government and good stewardship. ...The Church's prophetic call is to promote standards of justice and advocacy that would make it unnecessary and undesirable to resort to commercial gambling—including public lotteries, casinos, raffles, Internet gambling... as a recreation, as an escape, or as a means of producing public revenue or funds for support of charities and government."

One part of the anti-gambling strategy is to have as many pastors as possible sign on to a prepared letter [the letter will be posted at the district website, <www.hawaiidistrictumc.org>] and sending it to all legislators and having it publicized in an advertisement. Therefore, we, the Division of Church and Society and Superintendent Rev. Tom Choi ask that all pastors let Bob Nakata, Chair of the Division of Church and Society, know that you agree to sign on to the letter by emailing him at bobnakata239@aol.com, or calling him at 295-1316 as soon as possible.

Lay people are asked to contact their state legislators and voice their opposition to legalized gambling. Everyone's efforts are crucial in stopping legalized gambling in Hawaii.

—Rev. Bob Nakata, Chair of the District Division of Church and Society, Hawaii District



Ministry Musings from the District Superintendent

Focus—to promote C.D.M.L.F. in our district:

Connection to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all people

Discipleship in Christian formation—prayer, study, meditation, etc.

Ministry using identified Gifts and Graces

Leadership development and training rooted in Christian formation

TABLES I, II, III DUE ON FEBRUARY 15

These statistical tables are the basis for determining apportionments. If just one church does not turn in the tables, the apportionments cannot be determined, hence the reason why the 2013 figures were so late this year.

The deadline is February 15. Any pastors/churches that have not completed the tables by this date will be placed on a list and the list given for the bishop's review. Please take the completing of these tables very seriously. There will be no tolerance for delays.

My deep thanks for those church that have already completed and submitted their tables, including and especially those churches that do not have an appointed pastor!!!!

BRITT LECTURES DESIGNED FOR BOTH LAY AND CLERGY

One of the definite trends about the attendance at the Britt Lectures has been the increasing number of laypeople that attend. It has been reported that sometimes the lectures seem to have been designed primarily for clergy.

This year's lecturer, Dr. Anna Carter Florence, has graciously agreed to a different approach. She will first preach a sermon based on a text, which is designed to provide inspiration for both lay and clergy. The second part of the lectures will be an analysis of how the sermon was constructed and techniques used for that purpose, which will be designed for clergy and lay speakers, but will be interesting for all!

Please note that Friday's lecture will be broadcast live on 'Olelo, channel 49 on Oahu. For the neighbor islands (and everywhere), you can stream the feed live at <http://www.olelo.org/live/>

BENCHMARKS AND GOAL SETTING FOR PASTORS

Each year, I meet with our pastors for a one on one interview. Often these are casual conversations on how things are going in ministry. This year, I plan to be more focused and will ask each pastor to bring some goals with benchmarks for the coming year in two areas: discipleship building and stewardship. My hope is that SPRC's and church councils will meet with the pastor in advance of these meetings and plan together goals and benchmarks. I plan to begin meeting with pastors after Easter and through the summer.

OFFICE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We have remarkable district office staff in Leilani Zukemura and Rosie Jacinto. They have a long and complex list of responsibilities, much of which requires focused attention for long periods of time. They are, however, also required to answer the telephones, which can break their concentration and it takes awhile to re-focus on the task. Alvin Maeda has ably served for many years as our office volunteer, and comes in two days a week in the mornings.

If you are available to volunteer in the office to answer the telephone and do some light office work, that would be a great blessing. Please contact Leilani at 536-1864. Thanks so much!

Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom

MESSAGE FROM S LILO VAKAUTA, District Lay Leader

THIS IS THE SECOND MONTH OF THIS YEAR, THIS IS THE PIVOTAL MOMENT THAT WILL DETERMINE YOUR DESTINY IN 2013.

What you do now will impact the entire year. This is your MOMENT OF DECISION. You must decide if you are willing to experience GOD'S MIRACLE PROMISE by stepping out of the natural and into the supernatural! You must put everything else behind you and allow GOD'S BIG IDEA of BIG SUPERNATURAL BLESSING move you to action.

REMEMBER, BIG MIRACLES ARE ALWAYS GOD'S IDEA!

- It was God's idea to speak to Moses from burning bush.
- It was God's idea to send 10 plagues to Egypt so that God's people could set free.
- It was God's idea to stretch out the rod over the Red Sea for Israel's deliverance.

What I am about to share with you is not man's idea. It is GOD'S IDEA. It is an idea that will STRETCH YOUR FAITH and take you to a new place of BLESSING AND PROSPERITY. It is an idea that will END YOUR STRUGGLES and give you VICTORY and PROSPERITY!

HERE IS THE SECOND PART OF THE PROPHETIC WORD GOD GAVE US FOR OUR JOURNEY

"HAWAII DISTRICT, the coming year will be a time of BIG MIRACLES for you. 2013 will be your season of OVERFLOW. I say to you, do not look back, but look ahead. BEHOLD, I DO A NEW THING. As you obey Me in FAITH, BIG BLESSINGS shall come forth as springs in a desert. Obey Me, and I will give you ALL YOU HAVE DESIRED AND MORE! Obey My instruction, and I WILL CAUSE THE BARREN PLACES OF YOUR LIFE TO BLOSSOM LIKE A ROSE. You will walk in a river of blessing, flowing with success and prosperity. I have chosen you... but now you must choose. HONOR ME WITH YOUR FAITH AND I WILL HONOR YOU," saith God.

THE COMING MONTHS WILL FINALLY BE EXTRAORDINARY!

Satan gloats over some events in our life that he has used to discourage and defeat us like financial difficulties. We watched as Satan methodically sent demonic messengers to deceive us and destroy our faith. Satan not only attacked our physical body, but everything we touched.

At the same time, I saw the gift bearer angels of heaven gathered around us. Scores of angels stood as a barrier between us and Satan. God established heavenly forces in and around our household, finances, and health - every area of our life. Everything was in place. God set His heavenly clock for a season of BIG MIRACLES, BIG BREAKTHROUGHS, and BIG BLESSINGS. Then Satan shouted "It won't happen. Once again I will see to it that will let this important moment pass him by. Once again he will fail to make the right decision." I shouted back "SATAN YOU ARE A BIG LIAR!"

Let us join our hands and together we will walk out of all the challenges of 2012 and step into the light of the new blessings God has for you in 2013! Allow the Holy Spirit to set you up now for BIG MIRACLES AND BIG BLESSINGS for all 365 days of 2013.

HAWAII DISTRICT UMC, YOUR WORD FOR 2013 IS "BIG" ... Big Miracles - Big Breakthroughs - Big Blessings!

God showed us how to help and take advantage of this DIVINE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY that will bring BIG BLESSINGS to us. God has prepared hidden resources for you - like springs in the desert. I know that at this moment, you feel a bit overwhelmed and trapped by your daily struggles... You often wrestle with feelings of weariness and discouragement. Sometimes it seems like there is no way out. Miracles do not just happen - they are released!

...continued on page 4

The Ka Leo Mekokiko is published twelve times a year. It is the publication of the Hawaii District, The United Methodist Church 20 S. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96813. Phone: (808)536-1864 Fax (808) 531-7354
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Crib Rule Web-Link Revised

Church owned or operated child care that provide child care services for a fee or that pays a person (or persons) to care for children, and any child care arrangement in which volunteers provide care, e.g., during church service are subject to a new federal requirements. See full info at this revised link: <<http://www.cpsc.gov/onsafety/2011/06/the-new-crib-standard-questions-and-answers/>>

The actual federal regulations (a 24 page document) can be accessed here:

<<http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/113556/cribfinal.pdf>>. Thanks to Mr. Don Williams, Cal-Pac's "insurance guy" for tracking this for us all.

Taken from the "CalPac Update- 2.7.13"

MESSAGE FROM S LILO VAKAUTA, District Lay Leader (continued from page 3)

When our faith touched God through an act of obedience, He always responds. God is looking for men and women who will obey his voice and boldly act on their faith. Hebrews, Chapter 11 says, "faith come by hearing." The SEED OF FAITH comes by hearing God's Word. As in how our local church dutifully pays apportionment to the annual conference, so too the POWER OF FAITH is released through an act of obedience - A BOLD ACT OF FAITH! Often, God's instruction for an ACT OF FAITH does not seem to make sense - but by obeying God, you step into a whole NEW LEVEL OF BLESSING AND POWER. OBSTACLES WILL MELT AWAY.

Moses understood the power of an ACT OF FAITH. When the children of Israel were trapped between the Egyptian Army and the Red Sea, Moses needed a MIRACLE FROM GOD - and it had to be SOMETHING REALLY BIG! God told Moses to stretch out his rod over the Red Sea. This did not make any sense. There was nothing special about the rod; it was just a piece of wood. But, it was the ACT OF FAITH God was looking for so that He could release His delivering power. MOSES OBEYED, GOD PARTED THE WATERS, AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE SAVED! MOSES GOT MIRACULOUS RESULTS BECAUSE HE WAS WILLING TO ACT ON HIS FAITH

We have been through so much. But each time when you obeyed God and acted on your faith, God was moved by your obedience. Your need was met and your faith grew. NOW YOUR FAITH IS READY FOR THIS BIG MIRACLE MOMENT - THE BIGGEST YEAR OF YOUR LIFE! ALMIGHTY GOD has spoken, *"I have weighed your heart and chosen you. The NEW YEAR will hold an amazing NEW LIFE for you. I will send BIG MIRACLES into your life. Every need will be abundantly met."*

I am so careful about sharing a statement like this. But, I KNOW THE VOICE OF GOD. When I say our life is about to change, I am not kidding! There are 'BIG THINGS' in your future if you believe in HIS ALMIGHTY POWER OF GOD. I know GOD is about to do something BIG - I mean major - in your finances. The miracle will begin. God has chosen us to be blessed. It will be amazing

I AM TELLING YOU IN 2013 IS GOING TO BE YOUR BIG YEAR! I see things like... a BIG new house, a BIG bonus, a BIG new car, and BIG money windfalls. I see BIG plans for travel. I know it seems impossible, but ... WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

IN JESUS' NAME I say to you... DO NOT GIVE UP ON GOD - HE HAS NOT GIVEN UP ON YOU. He is a MIRACLE-WORKING GOD. 2013 IS YOUR BIG YEAR! GOD ALSO GAVE US AN INSTRUCTION THAT WILL HELP YOU RECEIVE HIS MIRACLE BLESSING! I LOVE YOU ALL HAWAII DISTRICT UMC, AMEN!

SIONE LILO VAKAUTA
SERVANT OF GOD

Introducing the Hunger Ministries Weaving Team

There was the *HUNGER WALK* at Annual Conference for many years to help churches contribute to the Hunger Fund beyond the "Hunger Appeal" on the Apportionment remittance form. The Hunger Walk is no more; but will be reborn in many walks and other events around churches and in mission areas. In its last year the Hunger Committee allocated hunger grants to 42 churches, totaling \$25,020.

Sunday, May 19, 2013 is being suggested as **Hunger Awareness Sunday**. This year, it falls on Pentecost. Between Easter and Pentecost is a good time to solicit support from the congregations. More information will be forthcoming.

The Weaving Team (Ileene Parker, Cathy Seelig, Terry Ratcliff, Ilse Peetz) encourages churches to partner with each other in their hunger ministries; many are already doing so. If you would like to be part of this fundraising and weaving team, please call or email Ilse at [661-944-2842](tel:661-944-2842) or Ilsepeetz@gmail.com.

Here are two stories on how churches minister to those who are hungry:

- ◆ First UMC of Sun Diego screens needy neighbors to see whether they are eligible for Cal Fresh benefits. While screening, volunteers service sandwiches to the guests.
A homeless man had been living on the sidewalk by the church. He had received food stamps in the past, but now considered himself ineligible because he has no permanent address. However, he was able to file an application and now receives benefits.
- ◆ A couple, living in their car, frequent the Co-Op Cafe at Wesley UMC, a partner of First UMC where they enjoy a hot shower and meal. They were able to complete the Cal-Fresh application, took it to the office and received benefits a few days later.

Thanks be to God for all the churches who are feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and guiding the poor out of poverty!

—Ilse Peetz, Chairperson of the Hunger Ministries Weaving Team

BITS N' PIECES...

**** PERSONAL ****

With deepest sympathy to...

...the Reverend Tevita Maile of Honolua UMC on Maui and also to his family on the passing of his brother, Mr. Fono Maile who died on January 13, 2013 in Tonga.

...retired Pastor Roby Correa and family. She lost her niece, Virginia, and Virginia's three grandsons in January in a house fire. Virginia is survived by her husband, daughter and son-in-law (parents of the three boys whose ages ranged from 6 years old to 2 months old).

HOLD THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES, MINISTRIES AND THEIR PASTORS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- 2/10 - **Maui Korean UM Mission** – the congregation
- 2/17- **Lihue United Church** - Pastors Wesley Elmore & Tevita Namoa
- 2/24 - **Lahaina UMC** - Pastor Paul Tangonan
- 3/3 - **West Kauai UMC** Pastor Joshua Clough
- 3/10 - **Kilohana UMC** - Pastors Alan Mark & Petueli Tafo'ou



DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2013

Sat., Feb. 2; 9:00: **Lay Servant classes**; Kailua
 Tue., Feb. 5; 7:00 pm: Wesley UMC Charge Conf.
 Wed., Feb. 6; 8:00 pm: Bethany Korean UMC Ch.Conf.
 Thu., Feb. 7; 7:00 pm: Waianae UMC Charge Conf.
 Sat., Feb. 9; 9:00 am: **Lay Servant classes**; Kailua
 “ , “ ”; 11:00 am: Kahuku UMC Charge Conf.
 Fri., Feb. 15: Deadline for Tables I, II, III
 Fri.-Mon., Feb. 15-18: **Britt Lectures**; First UMC
 Sat., Feb. 16; 8:30 am: Dist. UMW Mid-Winter Event
 Mon., Feb. 18: *Presidents' Day* - District Office closed
 Mon., Feb. 25: Deadline for Mar.-Apr. Ka Leo Mekokiko

March 2013

Sat., Mar. 2; 8:30 am: DLT meeting; Aiea UMC
 Sat., Mar. 9; 9:00 am: HUMU Board meeting; Dist.Ofc.
 Sun., Mar. 10: *One Great Hour of Sharing*
 Sat., Mar. 23: DPAS meeting [tentative]
 Sun., Mar. 24: *Palm Sunday*
 Mon., Mar. 25: Deadline for Apr.-May Ka Leo Mekokiko
 Tue., Mar. 26: *Prince Kuhio Day*; District Office closed
 Thu., Mar. 28: *Holy Thursday*
 Fri., Mar. 29: *Good Friday*; District Office closed
 Sun., Mar. 31: **EASTER SUNDAY**

April 2013

Thu., Apr. 4: Deadline: District Conference registration
 Wed.-Tue., Apr. 10-23: **Worship Trainings**; all islands
 Sat., Apr. 13; 9:00 am: UMW Spiritual Retreat;
 First Tongan UMC in Waimanalo
 Sun., Apr. 14: *Native American Ministries Sunday*
 Thu., Apr. 18: HCOM meeting; District Office
 Sat., Apr. 27: **District Conference / Annual HUMU Mtg**
 Mon., Apr. 29: Deadline for May-Jun. Ka Leo Mekokiko

May 2013

Sat., May 4; 9:00 am: Dist. UMW Team mtg.; SWCC
 Thu.-Sun., May 23-26: **Walk To Emmaus for Women**
 Sun., May 26: *Peace with Justice Sunday*
 Mon., May 27: *Memorial Day*; District Office closed
 “ ” “ :Deadline for Jun.-Jul. Ka Leo Mekokiko

June 2013

Tue., Jun. 11: *King Kamehameha Day*; Dist.Ofc. closed
 Wed.-Sat., Jun. 12-15: Cal-Pac Annual Conference
 Mon., Jun. 24: Deadline for Jul.-Aug. Ka Leo Mekokiko

July 2013

Thu., Jul. 4: *Independence Day*; District Office closed
 Wed.-Fri., Jul. 17-19: Cal-Pac UMW “mission u” - Korean
 Thu.-Sat., Jul. 18-19: Cal-Pac UMW “mission u” -
 all other schools
 Mon., Aug. 29: Deadline for Aug.-Sep. Ka Leo Mekokiko