

FROM PASTOR TOM

Flame of Encouragement – Spark of Compassion

Everything teaches us something.

We watch Olympic runners carry a torch, and then pass the flame from their torch to the next runner and so on down the street. No single runner reaches the goal. All of us participate in receiving a symbolic gift, and then see one runner after another passing it along as a sign of unity and cooperation that has no national limits. The burning torch is a beacon to the world about coming together with common purpose. Would that the purpose might become peace and understanding?

Watching the raging forest fires in Colorado lets us see how a bolt of lightning striking at an opportune place can ignite a whole new definition of vulnerability. Yet this same vulnerability inspires compassionate responses from professional and volunteer fire fighters. A woman says, "I thank God for the people who have come to assist us in our frightening situation!"

A governor comments on the self-sacrifice of men and women fighting to preserve a school from burning, when their own homes are going up in flames. He notes these folks are committed to the well being of the whole community not just their own property!

A large number of the forest trees were devastated by a beetle that killed them and left the dead trees dry and subject to the flash point dangers of high heat. The spread of the fire and the heat ignites the tinder as the spontaneous fires outdistance the ability to contain the flames.

"Catching fire!" is a metaphor for danger, but it is also a metaphor for commitment that moves with an un-stop-able intensity.

I recently read, "None of us knows who is waiting for the flame of hope from our candle to be the spark and the light that gives encouragement to someone else." Sometime when we least expect it another person will see our example and begin to shape their life because of a word or action on our part that ignited a new sense of purpose with vision for the focus of their lives.

Jesus is noted as saying, "No one lights a candle to hide it under a basket (Luke 8:16), but places it where it can give light to all around it! We can hide nothing for everything will be disclosed."

So it is with our every action and our commitment, for our purpose is to spark clarity of vision for all to benefit from. Notice the example of the firefighters above who risk themselves to save the resources and the future of their community. The light of their example may not seem like it, but it is far brighter than the danger of the forest fire. It signals for us commitment to a better day yet to come even in the presence of danger.

We are about to celebrate Fathers' Day (like Mothers' Day/or/ Parents' Day). We can remind ourselves how parents find great and growing joy as they see their children flourish with vision and hope when discovering paths of commitment for the good of all people. Parents find great joy as their child catches this fire of dedication.

We remember, "God so loved the world, God sent the son to become a light of mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and peace for all people."

So we ask ourselves, "What kind of light and flame am I shining into God's world? With God's people? So that the rising generation catches hope and commitment for the community in which we all live?"

*Warmest blessings,
Pastor Tom*

SENIOR MINISTRY

Mark Thursday June 28 on your calendar. A representative from HELCO will speak to our group about what HELCO is doing in saving energy, which will result in savings on your electricity bill. A delicious lunch will be prepared for this session also.

-Moira Tanaka

BLOOD BANK PROJECT THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO ALL who helped donate blood, provide refreshments for blood donors, and/or staffed the canteen on May 22 at Auntie Sally's Luau Hale.

The Blood Bank of Hawaii collected 155 pints of blood with four first-time donors. The Blood Bank says, "Since each unit of whole blood can be separated into three components, as many as 465 lives can be saved as a direct result of your (our) efforts." Hope more people will consider donating blood.... It is critical to have a good supply on hand for anyone who needs it.

CHC blood donors included Woody Kita, Anne Sadayasu, Jeanne Yagi, Irene Okada, Margaret Torigoe and others whom we may have missed. There probably are more members who do donate and we are sorry if we missed you; please let the office know if you did since you deserve a special thank you, too.

Thank you to the food donors: Janet Fujioka, Barbara Iwami, Hats Kamimura, Emi Katada, Kay Kawachika, Karl Kawahara, Jane Kawazoe, Woody Kita, Esther Kodani, Jennie Kondo, Blanche Maeda, Ben & Reiko Masutomi, Anita Mathews, Dorothy Matsui, Carol Morioka, Irene Okada, Anne Sadayasu, Eileen Shiraishi, Amy Shiroma, Sue Smith, Moira Tanaka, Margaret Torigoe, Millie Uchima, Gail Wung and Connie Yoshiyama.

Bev Dodo and Kay Kawachika called members for donation of the food; Karl Kawahara set up the people who came to man the canteen: Jane Kawazoe, Karl Kawahara, Kay Kawachika, Millie Daikawa, Eileen Shiraishi, Ben & Rei Masutomi, Jennie Kondo, Anne Sadayasu, Anita Mathews, Barbara Iwami, Esther Kodani, Dorothy Matsui, Mary Ann Katayama, Carol Morioka, Margaret Torigoe, Connie Yoshiyama and Moira Tanaka.

Karl says we should do it again.... Let us know if you are willing to donate and/or help next year. Special blessings to all!!!

-Margaret Torigoe

- 13 Yamane, Susumu
- Ohata, Sachie
- 14 Morioka, Carol
- 15 Kita, Elwood
- 16 Takemoto, Fawn
- Takemoto-Leahigh, Fern
- Mitipok, Mahalo
- 17 Maeda, Ruth
- Apao, Cherylann
- Olcott, Brenda
- 19 Tanouye, Jennifer
- 21 Kusinski, Dawn
- Olson, Wendy
- Tanouye, Harold
- Martin, Liane
- 22 Inouye, Lorraine
- Inouye, Benjamin
- 26 Chow, Royson
- 28 Nagao, Masayo
- 30 Nakamoto, Timothy

VOLUNTEERS FOR JUNE 17, 24

USHERS: Kenneth & Stefan Tanouye Families

FLOWERS:

6/17: Mariko Hong

6/24: Gloria Kobayashi

(continued)

CHILDCARE:

6/17: Mary Ann Katayama

6/24: Ruth Niino-DuPonte

LAYREADERS:

6/17: Carol Morioka

6/24: Woody Kita

**RHF's 2012 REX CHAPMAN AWARD WINNER:
REVEREND TERUO KAWATA**

This is one of RHF's highest awards and is given in recognition of outstanding service. The award is not presented every year. It is named after Rex Chapman, who served on the RHF Board from 1977 to 1998, and as chair from 1984 to 1989.

Dr. Teruo Kawata began working with RHF over 20 years ago when he was the conference Minister of the Hawaii Conference of the UCC. He was instrumental in the development of Pauahi Kupuna Hale and, later, the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg-Philip Street Apts. In 1997 he joined the Board of Directors for RHF and his wife, Kiku, became a member of the RHF Advisory Commission and also served for a time on the RHF Foundation Board.

JUNE PRAYER LIST

Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people

- 04 Yamaki, Amy
- Ushijima, Malia
- 05 Inouye, Lily
- Ohata, Ruth
- 11 Ushijima, Else
- Maeda, Scott
- Tanouye, Christopher

For a decade now, Dr. Kawata has led RHF's strategic planning process.

Dr. Kawata holds three Bachelor of Arts degrees and two Doctorate degrees. He is former General Secretary and former Conference Minister of the Hawaii Conference and the Central Pacific Conference of the UCC. This year Dr. & Mrs. Kawata retired from RHF's national Board of Directors & Advisory Commission (respectively).

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NOTE OF THANK YOU

Thank you all for the congratulatory words, challenging words, and all the blessings. coming from Micronesia, and attending schools here is a real struggle as well as a great challenge. I know that your prayers have helped me successfully and completed this part of my educational journey. I know that this will lead me to the beginning of a long road of struggle when I start college next fall. I definitely would need your prayers and your continuous supports.

Mahalo. Thank you, and Kalahngan.
(Pohnpeian word for Mahalo..) Wilson Wilson

HAWAII ISLAND YOUTH ASSET BUILDING CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, 07/11/12, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney will be sponsoring the "Hawaii Island Youth Asset Building Conference" at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel. The purpose of this conference is:

- Increase understanding and implementation of developmental assets
- Increase awareness of the Hawaii Teen Outreach Program (HITOP) – a positive youth development project funded by grant monies from the Department of Health
- Increase networking opportunities among the targeted audience: youth-serving agencies, organizations, clubs, educators, and community leaders

Cost is free, but space is limited. Registration Deadline: 07/02/12

When Pastor Tom is Away July 2-August 2

Pastor Tom will be away from July 2 to August 2, 2012, for vacation and earned time off.

While Pastor Tom is away Reverend Ron Kent

will be on call and serve as our supply pastor. If you need to contact Rev. Kent during this time please call the Church Office at 935-1283 on Rev. Kent's phone at 808-9871201, or call one of our Deacons. For added pastoral back-up call Rev. Linda Petrucelli at 808-889-6869 (Cell:315-0148).

IYAA

Car Wash will be on June 23, 2012 from 8:00am -2:30pm.

The IYAA Kid's Retreat was once again a success this year. On Friday night, the kids started out their retreat with dinner, followed by a time of fellowship, learning Chuukese action Sunday school songs and a Bible story from Mrs. Nite Robert. Although the kids enjoyed what Friday night had in store for them, they knew all the excitement was awaiting them the next day. The next day, everyone packed five 15-passenger vans and headed out to Spencer Beach Park. After a hike and tour of Pu'ukohola Heiau led by Mr. Yoshiyama, the kids enjoyed their time swimming and playing in the sand. IYAA is so grateful to James Yoshiyama and Bob and Sue Smith for spending the day with them, and also for their continual support to IYAA. Thank God for a great Kid's Retreat!

Vacation Bible School 2012
June 18- 22 5:30 to 8:00 PM (Dinner Served)
Church of the Holy Cross (935 -1283)



Lessons for Pre school to 8th Grade
Pre-school to grade 3 Will focus on Proverbs and Matthew.
Grades 4 to 8 Praise Worship. Each student will make their own ukulele and creating praise songs.
Parents are welcome to stay for diner and the lessons nightly
June 22 Family Night

Registration Form for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2012
JUNE 18 – 22 Church of the Holy Cross
440 W. Lanikaula Street Hilo 935-1283
Please mail to the address above