

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN

When Jesus sends out the seventy, Jesus said “Go your way. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you, heal the sick in it and say to them, “The Kingdom of God has come near to you” (Luke 10:3, 8-9)

Theme for my reflection: DO NOT GET WEARY IN DOING GOOD (BASED ON THE COLLECT)

After 4 years at EFM, 1 year Insight Space and a year at the Waiolaihui’ia program and now they send us the lay people to “GO”. GO and study the scripture and preach the word of God, GO and lead the worship, GO and prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

When I met Bishop Bob 10 days ago, and he asked me what I think about the Lay Minister program. I told him we need it because the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

I thank you the Vestry, Rev. Richard and senior warden Beth, for allowing me to share my reflection. English is my secondary language. Please bear with me!

In the Gospel today when the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified saying, “It is a Ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

In King James version it says that time was “about the fourth watch of the night”

Jesus made the disciples go in the boat without him, and all night the boat was battered by the waves and wind against the boat.

Early the next morning, when they are physically and emotionally exhausted, they see someone walking toward them on the water. They can only assume it is a ghost, and THAT is what terrifies them: the UNCERTAINTY!

Imagine their collective sigh of relief when Jesus said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

When I was little, I was afraid of ghosts and the darkness. That’s how we were raised up when we were a “Kolohe guy”, the parents said “Tevolo ena” to scare us and stop being rascal. To terrify us and listen more carefully. To terrify us and stop disrespecting.

My grandma used to take me to the weekday morning prayer at 5am and we walked about 3 miles from our village of Houmakelikao to our St. Paul’s Anglican church in the capital Nuku’alofa and she lived one block from church. She came and spent the long weekend when we have holidays on Monday. My parents were sleeping and didn’t take us because of the holiday. The dogs barked and I held tightly to her hand while she walked fast to get there on time. Maybe she had a dream for a day like today.

At that time there was no streetlight. Now they have streetlights and no traffic lights.

That's what happened nowadays when shooting happens because people are terrified. People are fast to pull their gun before the other guy kill them. What if we just say, "Calm down", "What do you want" and listen to what they say even though it's good or bad. Just listen. Give them the chance to calm down, then feel sorry, then go in peace!

In a collect for Peace: Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength knows but the strength of love.

Last 2 weeks was the Women's Netball World cup tournament in South Africa. One of the posters in our Tongan TALA netball team says "Never Fear, Tongans are here"

I would rephrase: NEVER FEAR, JESUS IS HERE!

When Peter started walking on the water, he became frightened, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

What I'm terrified of now is the cost of living here in Hawaii and afraid that I don't have enough money to buy a house for my family in the future. A house for our disability son. A house for a homeless son with his family. That's why I'm 100% supporting the affordable housing projects by Governor Josh Green, and my wife's new job reaches out and helps the homeless. Grateful for my job's benefit of providing a roof over our head here in Honolulu.

At the same time, my family still give what we have to God. Our time, our talent, our money, our thanksgiving for his mercy and grace, and we believe this is the right thing to do. That's what we did and overcame the immigration requirements and made it possible our migration from Tonga to NZ and then to our USA. USA - land of milk and honey!

Our family is working diligently to continue providing milk and honey for others. When time we're poor we cry out "Lord save us"

"For Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved!"

DO NOT GET WEARY IN DOING GOOD AND CALL THE NAME OF THE LORD AND YOU SHALL BE SAVED.

IN THE TIME OF PROSPERITY, FILL OUR HEARTS WITH THANKGIVING.

In the second reading to the Romans:

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?

I believe the answer for these questions is on the Gospel today.

When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." It resonates us that God revealed his grace and glory and open their eyes and said "Truly you're the Son of God."

A moment of relief and transformation from doubt and fear to faith, from despair to hope. And proclaim that "Truly you're the Son of God."

DO NOT GET WEARY IN DOING GOOD to always believe in him and proclaim his name.

That's the Ontological change – change the nature of our beings to always pray and prayer lives in us during the time we're searching for a new priest in charge. Always pray that we work together and agree to disagree and accept our differences. It's not an easy task but I challenge you to heal the life of others and float our ship.

Please pray for those in Lahaina, Maui.

First reading from Genesis:

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.

Joseph's brothers were jealous and decided to kill him.

It happens between rivals like between brothers, sisters, schools, countries like what happens in the Women's soccer team. Fox 1 TV News said that USA is going home while England still ongoing. Will be back in 4 years!

I hated my younger brother because our mom loved him when I went and spent time with our grandma.

In Tonga there's grabs with red colored shell that lives in their holes under the mangroves at the lagoon. We call them Kuka. Tongans gets them for food. Eat local!

How to get them is you dig your bare hand in the hole that they hide in and grab them and put them in a container about 5 gallons size. If I put 20 Kuka inside and go swimming with my friends for an hour I come back and still 20 inside the can. No one escaped. You wonder why?

Because if any one Kuka try to escape the others will grab that one that tried to escape and pulled down into the can. They all remain inside until you cook and eat them.

It's like when we moved overseas for Junior's health conditions and better life, some immigration officers gave us a limited one-month visa. Kuka grabs!

It happens between rivals in sports. Like amongst the rugby countries in the Southern Hemisphere NZ All Blacks, Aust Wallabies, South Africa Springboks and Argentina Pumas because NZ is a small island and sometimes win the World Cup.

Also, amongst the Pacific Islands Triangle Tonga, Samoa and Fiji. Sometimes they don't get along well because Tonga is a small island and sometimes win the tournament. Unfortunately, the Manu Samoa thrashed the Tongan 'Ikale Tahi two weeks ago. Yikes! And was deadly quiet on Facebook overnight!

In my building there was a leaking incident, and a Fijian owner called me around 11pm at night and reported the leak. When the plumber came, the son didn't let them inside their unit to complete the repairs. Why, because the Resident Manager is a Tongan Haha!

Create more work from one page to 10 pages incident report. Twenty-two phone calls, emails and text messages in a single day.

The smiling face is seen, but deep in the heart is a rival spirit. That's what the devil is doing to come and STEAL, KILL AND DESTROY us.

But when Reuben hear it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." "Shed no blood."

Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? DOING GOOD pops out!

Once you have not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

In the "catechism" in the BCP it states, "The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."

That is what we mean by Jesus' atonement: his atonement is our at-one-ment, our at-one-ment with God and our at-one-ment with each other.

DO NOT GET WEARY IN DOING GOOD and reconciliation with each other.

In the Psalm

Joseph was set as a ruler over all his possessions,

The brothers did the right thing to save their younger brother Joseph's life, he became a ruler.

45 Hallelujah!

When I'm successful in any task I say Hallelujah!

(Go p.22) AS a disciple of Jesus, in order to GO out in our communities to live out the Gospel, we need tools and support system. What if we viewed our faith community as a base camp?

From a Christian perspective, then, let us look at the base camp as a metaphor for the local congregation. Presbyterian pastor Steve Jacobsen put it this way:

One image that may be useful is that of the church as a base camp... The church is a base camp in which a community of people gathers to reflect on life, be reminded of their identity, and make plans for exploration. From there, each person goes out during the week to take on that part of the mountain that is theirs to explore. The base camp exists to serve the climbing team. In itself, it is neither the goal of the expedition nor the mountain itself.

The value of this image is that it affirms the importance of the community... but does not mistake the institution for the central reality. The hikers don't exist for the good of the base camp. The base camp exists for the good of the hikers. The implications of this view of the church's role for working people are clear. The church needs to focus on its timeless tasks: it is to be a place of worship, education and community. But it also needs to evaluate how well it is empowering people for the work on the mountain those other six days. The church exists for the people, not the reverse. People deserve our help in making sense of all seven days.

Let's be clear about what Jacobsen is saying, and what the base camp metaphor (as congregation) teaches us. The hikers (members) don't exist for the good of the base camp (faith community). The base camp of St. Clement exists for the good of us the members.

DO NOT GET WEARY IN DOING GOOD. AMEN

BY SOANE LINO 08/13/23