



Nu 'Oli Mai Paahau

"Good News from Prison" Newsletter of the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

FALL 2014

Chaplain Dennis Yokota

Vol. 14

Issue 1

Keep In Touch...

The updated Good News Jail & Prison Ministry's new website:

www.goodnewsjail.org

- testimonies
- praises
- thanks

National/International News!
and... the Hawaii jurisdiction's
own website:

www.goodnewshawaii.org

- local testimonies
- local praises
- local thanks

Local events and news!

And don't forget the opportunity to
share on our Facebook page:

[facebook.com/
goodnewshawaii](https://facebook.com/goodnewshawaii)

Be sure to visit all of our
online locations and share
them with all you can!

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37th Anniversary Banquet

Celebrating 37 years of providing Chaplains to Hawaii's Jails & Prisons!

Friday, November 21, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Manoa Grand Ballroom
Japanese Cultural Center
2454 S. Beretania Street

Silent Auction • Testimonies • Entertainment

Parking Validation \$5

\$50 Donation Per Individual Ticket
\$500 Donation (Table of 10)

rsvp by November 7, 2014

To order tickets, sponsor, or make a silent auction prize donation,
please contact:

Banquet Committee: 545-5272

Chaplain Dennis Yokota: 485-1884

or any Chaplaincy Support Team Member

— in the news...

With Thanks

As we look to the end of 2014, with a little more than sixty days, it is with a deep sense of thanksgiving to our God and to all of you that comprise this Good News Jail & Prison Ministry here in Hawaii.

Beginning with our small core of Chaplaincy Support Team members and expanding in wider circles to include all of you that support the ministry in countless ways, words cannot express just how much of a difference you've made!

With your help we supported our Chaplain, Dennis Yokota, who along with Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Chaplain Michael Sidman, personally minister to our prison populations while also facilitating an army of volunteers bringing the light of Christ into the Hawaii corrections facilities.

Our activities for the year began with our **Annual Good News Luncheon** held March 22, 2014, at Kalihi Union Church. We enjoyed testimonies and songs of praise lifted by the Waiawa Men's Choir and former inmates whose lives were turned

around, completely, by their acceptance of Christ. We enjoyed the fruits of culinary skills shared by the host church in preparing the annually awaited meatloaf and cake that only Dottie Chong could provide. Thank you, Dottie, and Pastor Jonathan, for hosting us for this special day and to all of those who came to enjoy the food and fellowship of the day! No doubt, Christ was right there with us!

Then, on Friday, June 6, nearly forty golfers converged on the Makaha Valley Country Club Golf Course for the "**Annual Good News Golf Event**". Your contributions, along with that of our sponsors, outshone even your scores that day as you helped to gird our financial base and assure our chaplains are kept in the prisons! For some, the golf was better than for others. But whatever the score, each golfer should know the game he or she played that day made a difference, more than can ever be realized.

By August 23rd, we were recuperated and ready for our **Annual Chaplain's Walk**, our annual fun walk around Kapiolani Park and, for some of us, around... and around... and around! Whether walking or just "manning" the food station (of which there was plenty!)

it was a day of relaxing but treasured fellowship as our group efforts, supported by our walk sponsors, further contributed to the ministry's overall support. Thanks to all who walked, helped out in event preparation, and sponsored others in the walk. The help you provided is crucial in a time where challenges to our ministry come in the way of leaner times and tighter budgets for those trying to support the ministry.

We continue to look forward to our last two events of the year, our **37th Anniversary Banquet** on November 21, and our **Annual Video Visit Christmas Party** on December 13, at Nuuanu Baptist Church, for families doing video visits with their loved ones incarcerated in mainland facilities. And as we excitedly anticipate both these events it is with much gratitude to all of you who are a part of this ministry - whether serving as a volunteer, providing financial support, or simply praying for the wherewithal needed to support and grow this ministry. Truly, God has touched each of you and, through you, He has touched each of us and those whose lives have been changed behind bars. We thank you and wish you and your loved ones all of God's continued blessings!

Meatloaf... & A Link to Our Past

The Good News Jail & Prison Ministry's annual luncheon held March 22, 2014, at Kalihi Union Church offered yet another example of God bringing together His people to support each other, enjoy each other, and break bread with each other all the while enjoying the fruits that come through lives turned over to Him.

Under the leadership of KUC's Dottie Chong handling the food preparation and Pastor

Jonathan Steeper personally seeing to all of the facility details throughout the event, we experienced a wonderful afternoon that was further blessed by some history shared by Pastor Jonathan a few weeks later when some of us returned to participate in KUC's clean-up day.

Pastor Jon is the second Steeper to shepherd KUC, his father having also served as the church's senior pastor. In between clean up tasks, Pastor Jon shared how his father would invite former inmates into their home for meals, Bible study, and fellowship and it was through these experiences that he developed a love for what this ministry is all about! Praise God and his working through two generations of Steepers!

Nu 'Oli Mai Paahau is the Newsletter of the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry-Oahu Chaplaincy Support Team which has as its parent organization the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, a 501C(3) Non-Profit Organization, whose address is:

PO BOX 9760
Richmond, VA 23228-0760
Tel: 1-800-220-2202

The Oahu Chaplaincy Support Team consists of a team of appointed volunteers who support a full-time chaplain that ministers to the inmates and adult corrections officers of Hawaii's correctional facilities and can be contacted below:

PO Box 31006
Honolulu, HI 96820
Tel: 808-485-1884
www.goodnewshawaii.org

& comin' up!

Supporting the Ministry!

The Good News Jail & Prison Ministry is entirely supported by Individuals, churches and organizations who feel called to bring the Gospel into the prison community.

As the Ministry receives no federal or state support your gift, be it a single or recurring contribution, is vital to sustaining the efforts of our chaplains here in Hawaii.

Credit card and e-transfer options are available or you can mail in your donation using the form below. You may also consider sponsoring any of the following:

- “Nu ‘Oli Mai Paahau” Newsletter
- Golf Event Fees
- Banquet Tables & Guests
- Programs & Other Event Costs

For all financial support, you will receive a statement of your donation for tax purposes.

To learn more about the methods of supporting the Hawaii Ministry, contact Chaplain, Dennis Yokota:

Tel: 485-1884 or e-mail to: dennis.yokota@goodnewsjail.org

“Truly I tell you, just as you did to the least of these who are my family, you did to me.”
Matthew 25:40

We're Online!

The Oahu Chaplaincy Support Team has had its own website for awhile and now we're growing our online presence even further! You can keep up with our news and events by visiting our website...

www.goodnewshawaii.org

...or share your own experiences with the ministry through our Facebook Page. Remember, the more “likes”, photos, and comments the page receives, the more people will know about our ministry!

www.facebook.com/goodnewshawaii

And, by the way, if you haven't sent us your e-mail address, please do. That will allow us to send out information to you regarding our upcoming events and special news flashes!

Your e-mail is definitely safe with us and will only be used for ministry information - never for solicitations or spam!

You can forward your e-mail to:

dennis.yokota@goodnewsjail.org

With all of the ways to keep in touch, we hope to maintain the strength we share in our unity while strengthening our outreach to those in the prisons and those on the outside dealing with the heartbreak and accompanying challenges of having a loved one incarcerated.

... your own ministry!

Perhaps you've wanted to support the prison ministry but don't feel that ministering inside prison walls is something you're ready for at this time.

You and your church or organization can make a huge impact by helping to spread the word about the ministry by holding any of a number of fundraising activities with the help of the Ministry's Oahu Chaplaincy Support Team.

Host an event-type fundraiser such as a luncheon, walk-a-thon, or speaking engagement as you normally would and we'll assist with manpower, testimonial speakers, and processing of donations and issuance of tax-deductible receipts.

The funds that you and your church or organization raise will go directly toward the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry's efforts right here on Oahu.

For more information, please call Chaplain Dennis Yokota at 485-1884.

OAHU CHAPLAINCY SUPPORT TEAM

Co-chairs: Ron Lee, Richard Young
Financial Secretary: Warren Yamamoto
Barbara Gatewood • Tim Gruber
Shawna Kim • Charles & Carol Noland
Leona Ogi • Dianne O'Steen
Reynold Saito

GOOD NEWS JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY - OAHU CHAPLAINCY SUPPORT TEAM

PLEASE MAIL YOUR GIFT TO: GNJ&P MINISTRY • PO BOX 31006 • HONOLULU, HI 96820

I'd like to further the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry here in Hawaii! Please find enclosed my tax deductible gift of:

() \$25 () \$50 () \$100 () \$500 () \$1,000 () _____

() Please contact me to discuss ways in which my church or organization can be a part of this ministry.

Name: _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Join A Worship Team... In Prison

Among the most moving experiences for many of our Chaplaincy Support Team members, and supporting churches, are our worship team visits to the Halawa and Waiawa Correctional Facilities in which the team leads a worship service inclusive of songs, a message, and prayer.

It seems no matter how many times one goes, the feeling is nonetheless moving as each gets to witness, personally, the impact of Christ in a place where you'd least expect it. As a member of a worship team, you'll be part of a group leading a congregation of inmates in ways very familiar to your own church worship experiences. You may be one of the musicians, the one offering the message, a prayer, a scripture reading, or some other part of the liturgy but one thing for sure is that it'll be an experience like you've never felt before.

For many of us, songs we sang for years took on a different meaning and impacted

us in totally different ways when the "prison" congregation joined us in singing. Hearing the resounding "amens" as the message was being shared not only reflected affirmation of what was being shared but also the common bond that we, the worship team and the inmates, shared in our common walk with Christ.

A worship visitation begins with interested individuals or church groups contacting any of our Chaplaincy Support Team (CST) members who would, depending on number in your group, set up a special visit or schedule you to go with another group.

Often, the actual visits are preceded by informal practice sessions (usually just one) to get the group familiar with the songs to be sung and to discuss the general worship plan. The CST member will also review the procedures for clearance and policies that need to be followed during the visit.

On the day of the worship service all worship team members would report at a pre-designated location and enter the facility together.

Once behind bars, God will take over and it will suffice to simply turn it over to Him. In visiting one of the correctional facilities as part of a worship team you'll be afforded and opportunity to witness, in person, the power of Jesus in one of the darkest places imaginable. Without a doubt, you will move someone. And what's more, you will be moved.

To inquire about participating in a worship visit please call:

Chaplain Dennis Yokota

485-1884

or e-mail him at:

dennis.yokota@goodnewsjail.org