



Nu 'Oli Mai Paahau

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

Winter 2010 Chaplain Dennis Yokota

Vol. 10

Issue 1

Meatloaf... Spreading the Good News - Annual Family Luncheon March 20!

The eagerly-awaited Annual Luncheon for the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry will be held on **Saturday, March 20, 2010, at the Kalihi Union Church, 2214 North King Street.**

Anyone who's attended the annual luncheon knows well the delicious meatloaf, whipping cream corn, and scrumptious homemade cakes that have become a tradition over the years.

In addition to the great food and fellowship you'll bear witness to God's transforming grace in the lives of individuals who've had



their lives changed after accepting Christ as their Lord and Savior. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy an exceptional lunch while learning about our ministry behind bars!

**For information and tickets, contact:
Chaplain Dennis Yokota Tel: 485-1884.**



A Story Of Grace... & Forgiveness

The Good News Jail & Prison Ministry's 32nd Anniversary Banquet was especially blessed by the presence of the Ministry's Executive Director, Harry Greene, who was deeply moved by testimonies which he shared in his international newsletter. Mr. Greene's account of the testimonies given by Eddie Riviera, now himself a chaplain at Victory Ohana, and Jeffrey Kealoha follows:

Eddie, our first character in this story, served 28 years in prison in Hawaii. Many years ago, while incarcerated, he was led to Christ by Chaplain Dennis Yokota. Eddie has been out of prison for ten years now and God has blessed him. He is a solid Christian serving in full time ministry and working closely with the Chaplain.

God has reunited him with his family and he has become a blessing to many people. Our second character, Jeffrey served 32

years in prison and was also led to Christ by the Chaplain. He has been out of prison for a little more than six months. He gave a wonderful testimony of how God had changed his life. Part of that testimony was that years ago he had killed Eddie's brother.

Eddie had been prison when that event took place and he didn't just get the news of his brother's death, he also found out who had committed the murder. There wasn't anything he could do about it right then, so he determined to bide his time until he had the opportunity to make Jeffrey pay.

However, God had another plan. Eddie trusted Christ and the anger and hate slowly faded away. When Eddie heard that Jeffrey had trusted Christ, he rejoiced and when Jeffrey was released, Eddie

went to see him, not to right a wrong, but to forgive Jeffrey, for now they were brothers in Christ.

Together they went to the grave of Eddie's brother where they prayed together and laid it all before the Lord, reconciling themselves in Christ and God's grace.

Before Eddie and Jeffrey went to prison they were two of the worst criminals in Hawaii. They were merciless men who thought nothing of the victims they injured while committing numerous crimes. They had a well deserved reputation as hardened men who would avenge any wrong, actual or imagined . . . but God had a different plan for their lives.

Yes, they spent many years paying for their crimes. But today, because of Christ,

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A Story About Christmas

By Ronald Lee

On Friday, Dec. 18, some members of the President's Council, church volunteers, and members of Palisades Baptist Church participated in an evening worship service at Waiawa Correctional Facility (minimum & community facility).

It was an outdoor praise service which I will never forget. It felt as if the roof was being raised by the inspired singing of the inmates.

Two of the inmates had brought their guitars and led the singing of praise songs and Christmas carols. All hands were being raised giving glory to God for his grace and mercy.

The songleaders sounded very profes-

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sional and the singing sounded unbelievably like one voice. You could see that the spirits of the inmates were lifted up, feeling positive and loving in the spirit of Christmas.

The volunteers had generously brought bags of homemade cookies and the abundance just floored the prisoners. Ernest Lum, Tim Gruber, and Miles Kotoshirodo had shared their testimonies and messages. The message was to seek God first in your life and all things will be added unto you. We all left blessed by the joy we experienced. It was the true meaning of Christmas.

As we continued in a number of events that distinguished Advent from any other time of the year, the President's Council and some friends went on a trolley ride the following Saturday to see the Christmas City Lights.

After the trolley ride, we went out for dinner. I noticed a young lady jumped onto

her father's lap (one of the members in our group) while seated in the waiting lounge. She was probably college age. It wasn't a usual picture; one would normally see little, younger kids hopping onto their Dad's lap, not bigger older ones. But I was guessing that she was probably making up for lost time when he was not around in the past but now she was rejoicing in his return to family life as a changed man.

I learned that her father re-entered "civilian life" after serving time in prison but during that time he found Christ and made a commitment to turn his life around. He was transformed.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Come and see what Christ has done. To God be the Glory!

A Year of Blessings!

For the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Oahu President's Council, 2009 was a year rich in God's blessings and a continuing affirmation of His working through the hands of the ministry supporters.

The year's activities began with our annual meatloaf luncheon at Kalihi Union Church followed by the 2009 Golf Event at the Makaha East Country Club. In August, our Chaplain's Walk at Kapiolani Park drew a record number of walkers many of whom also were there in November to celebrate our 32nd Anniversary Banquet at the Japanese Cultural Center.

In each of these events the ministry was blessed with an outpouring of financial support to enable the ministry's work throughout the year, God-inspired testimonies of transformed lives, and the special fellowship that comes only when we are gathered in His name.

A special annual tradition of the Oahu President's Council was the smaller-scaled but nonetheless happy time spent celebrating Christmas at Nuuanu Baptist Church with families who had come for their video-conference visits with loved ones incarcerated in mainland facilities.

With thanks to God, we look forward to another year of opportunities to bless and to be blessed. And thanks to all of you who make this ministry possible.

Nu 'Oli Mai Paahau is the Newsletter of the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry-Oahu President's Council 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 President's Council consists of a council of appointed volunteers and two full-time chaplains who minister 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

Credit Card/ E-transfer Donations!

The Good News Jail & Prison Ministry is entirely supported through the generosity of individuals, groups and organizations who feel the calling 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.

Due to many requests, you can now help support the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry while enjoying the benefits and convenience of your preferred credit card or electronic funds transfer.

For each donation you authorize from your credit card or selected checking account, you will receive a receipt for tax purposes along with the donation being listed on your credit card or bank statement.

To learn more about this convenient method of supporting the Hawaii Ministry, contact Chaplain, Dennis Yokota:

**Tel: 485-1884 or e-mail to:
dyokota@hawaii.rr.com**

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

events

ANNUAL LUNCHEON
Saturday, March 20, 2010
11:30 a.m.
Kalihi Union Church
Chaplain Yokota - 485-1884
dyokota@hawaii.rr.com

GOOD NEWS GOLF EVENT
Friday, June 18, 2010
12:30 p.m. (Dinner Follows)
Makaha East Golf Club
Ron Lee - 386-0953
aloharon@hawaii.rr.com
Richard Young - 261-1888
rskyoun@hawaii.rr.com

2010 CHAPLAIN'S WALK
Saturday, July 31, 2009
7 a.m. - 11 a.m. Ongoing
Kapiolani Park
Dianne O'Steen - 545-5272
djosteen@hawaiiantel.net

33rd ANNUAL BANQUET
Friday, November 12, 2010
Japanese Cultural Center
Dianne O'Steen - 545-5272
djosteen@hawaiiantel.net

Your 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 President's Council.

Host an event-type fundraiser such as a luncheon, golf outing, 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 PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL
Chaplain: Dennis Yokota
Co-chairs: Ron Lee, Richard Young
Financial Secretary: Warren Yamamoto
Recording Secretary: Heide Madrigal
Tim Gruber Jan Morita
Leona Ogi Reynold Saito
Dianne O'Steen
Honorary Member: George Akahane

GOOD NEWS JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY - OAHU PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

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 _____

“Forgiveness” from page 1

they are in ministry together on the same streets where they were so feared in years past. And this Christmas, they will be ministering together to hurting people in halfway houses in Honolulu.

What an example of God’s amazing grace! Two hard, mean men who people thought could never change, trusted in Christ through the ministry of a devoted Chaplain and are now serving God together. That happened because Christians in Hawaii supported their Chaplain, allowing him to be in the prison ministering to the least and the lost. And that happens as your Chaplains(s) faithfully proclaim the gospel message in facilities across the country and around the world. You have a part in every “Eddie” or “Jeffrey” who comes to faith in Christ through the ministry you support.

There are thousands of men and women like Eddie and Jeffrey in jails and prisons where our Chaplains minister. God also has a plan for their lives. At Good News

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry
PO BOX 31006
Honolulu, HI 96820

we are more committed than ever to fulfill our vision of reaching the inmates of the world for Christ.

We can only do that as God moves His people to stand with us as partners in ministry. I am asking that you will pray about making a special gift before the end this year. We are trusting God to provide as He has for 49 years and allow us to see a strong end to the year financially.

The greatest gifts you could ever give your Chaplain(s) are to pray for them and support them as we go through the Christmas season and end of the year.

I pray this “gift” has blessed your hearts. On behalf of our Chaplains, Staff, and Board of Directors, Barbara and I wish you a joyous, Christ-filled Christmas and a very blessed New Year.

In service with you,

Harry L. Greene, President & CEO
Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

A Prayer To Grow Our Ministry

As we look to a new year it is with heart-felt gratitude - gratitude for the blessings we’ve witnessed in changed lives and the joy that comes with seeing families reunited and looking forward with real hope for the future.

Having borne witness over and over to Christ’s transforming power, we pray that this ministry here in Hawaii can grow to include a second chaplain, a chaplain that will help to offset the growing challenges brought about by an increasing prison population while services and programs dwindle due to rising economic pressures.

We pray for the continuing support of all whose hands and hearts have maintained Christ’s presence behind bars and that together we will further even more His glory.

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