

## A CUP OF COLD WATER SNAPSHOTS & REFLECTIONS – AUGUST 2014

August 31, 2014 - Special Visit to Kahului Hongwanji Buddhist Temple - Excerpts posted from Keku Akana: Keku speaks for 20 minutes to a congregation of about 50. Questions arise about homelessness, security, safety. Emphasis is placed on our spiritual mission and our gratitude towards our God and our Christ. 20 plus women gather around the Van with plenty of questions. One man jumps into the van and sees our Safety briefing placard (safety reminders and visual alert cues on possible dangerous behaviors). He grabs it and asks if he can xerox it--"this is good, this is good." Someone else: "Do you work with Maui Mental Health Kokua?", "You give towels? They like towels?... Oooh dog food too?", "How they take care the dog when they no can take care of themselves?", "What, you folks touch them? How you stay safe?"

They donated some items: "Here one box small soaps...here, one box small shampoo...bumbye we bring more stuff." Reverend Richard says, "we will stay in touch, and hopefully be able to donate items regularly."

*My thought: Dang..... no more solo visits. I won't make this mistake again. I needed a few more ACCW team folks with me. Couldn't give them the time each one deserved.*

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August 30, 2014 - ACCW In-reach Collective (Paula Baldwin, Rev. Linda Decker, Dcn. Cris South & Kit Hart) For Stanley... a homeless friend...

On a Lahaina run a few weeks ago, Stanley told Deb, Dutch and me how concerned he was for the children on the border, the thousands of unaccompanied children and families from Central America fleeing to the US to beg for asylum from gangs, violence and extreme poverty. The stories are heart wrenching: Texas has sent the state guard to the border; a California town turned people away with signs telling them they were not wanted; the INS has sped up the deportation process side-stepping the federal law which requires a hearing in each case to decide refuge status; San Francisco has given funds for attorneys for the refugees without which hope of staying is virtually nil; there have been other kind and caring communities and churches that have offered help. No easy answers, Stanley .....

I know there are a million refugees from Syria. But this is our border and these children are on our doorstep.

*If our child asks for bread, do we give her a stone? Matthew 7:9*

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August 27, 2014 - ACCW In-reach Collective (Paula Baldwin, Rev. Linda Decker, Dcn. Cris South & Kit Hart) I saw a young woman once, in a church, many years ago. She was very badly physically disabled, her body drawn into uncomfortable positions, her face uncontrolled in an expression that made most look away. The woman was there, behind the exteriors that repulsed so many. Most looked away, unable to cope and unwilling to stare. It shook us to our deepest core and we didn't know what to do. Coming down from the Eucharist, a young man stopped in front of her wheelchair and looked at her for a long time. Then he leaned forward and gave her a gentle but sincere hug. The young woman was quite startled and uncertain. But that single act turned a tide that day as, one by one, almost everyone

celebrated the Holy Communion and then leaned down to hug someone whom no one ever touched. Tears began to stream down the young woman's face and before long she was sobbing. We gathered around, all of us crying. There were no words, no needs for words. God was in the tears that day.

*"God our healer, keep us aware of your presence, support us with your power, comfort us with your protection, give us strength and establish us in your peace." The New Zealand Prayer Book*

Client: "God bless you".... ACCW: "and may God bless you"....Client: "God has already blessed me, because he brought you...."

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August 14, 2014 - (Taskie Hoopii, Paul Javier, Ilima Kalama) Served: 31, Mileage: 48 - It's an all Puka Naz crew today, as they head out to the west side to serve. The numbers are lower than usual, however Taskie and crew encounter some elderly folks near the Lahaina Senior Homes (just past Kaiser on Waivee Street, where we serve the one Hawaiian brother under the mango tree)... they welcome some food and items, and ask ACCW to toot the horn on Saturday's, when they come by as they have needs and very little income.

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August 13, 2014 - ( Deb Lynch, Ev Senter, Kit Hart) Served: 50, Mileage: 20  
Served 9 dogs and noted 12 cats at Kanaha.....

It's a beautiful day in Central Maui as Den leads her crew of Ev Senter and Kit Hart, through the Central Maui Run. Waihee Gold Course is empty today and so is the Harbor area near the old YHATA building ( paukukalo side of the harbor. The ACCW crew reports giving out plenty of Tee shirts and rubber slippers. Rice and can openers are requested... Deb notes that we serve several deaf clients in the Central Maui Run (sometimes river mouth, some at Kanaha)... Another day of service...

*"Trust is delicate, essential for life, slowly built, easily damaged, rebuilt with difficulty, and well worth pursuing.... Rev Frank Wade ( Forward Day by Day Tuesday 7.15.2014)*

*"There is no substitute for direct engagement.....How do we know if we are in Gods will?.... we simply go to where the greatest needs are, directly...engage it.....now..."*

*Jesus to his Disciples..." YOU go feed them....."*

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August 12, 2014 - ACCW In-Reach Collective (Paula Baldwin, Rev. Linda Decker, Dcn. Cris South & Kit Hart) *"Perhaps everything terrible is, in its deepest being, something that needs our love."* Rainer Maria Rilke

*It is human nature to pull away from that which frightens us. In that unspoken place deep within us, we know how easy it is to be that which we feel we must pity. But if we can push pity aside and reach deep enough, we begin to find the love that will let us hold the hand of the sick, the hurting, the disturbing, the*

*needy, the hungry...It is a short journey sometimes from one who gives to one who needs. Help me to reach deeply, Lord, and find the love you gave me to share. Amen.*

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August 6, 2014 - (Sean Foley, Grace Bible & Keku Akana) Served: 50, Mileage: 23 Excerpts posted from Keku Akana: It's a two person team today as Keku and Sean Foley ride together for the first time. Sean is a retired Maui County Lifeguard and a passionate evangelical Christian from Grace Bible Church Kula... he is also a Deacon in their Church and also serves at a Lahaina Fellowship Church (connected to the First Assemblies of God). He is energetic, fit and full of the love of Christ.

Today we plan to warn as many of our clients as possible about the looming weather and inform them that Baldwin high and/or the County Gym will be designated shelters. We strongly encourage all of the beach dwellers to get in land and find shelter.

Comments:

*"Have some prayer needs....please pray for my brother and for me as i may be going to Ghana to open a Salvation Army."* Young lady at Rivermouth. Sean leads us in a circle of prayer.

*"Here, you take these clothes, you always give us, I like give you."* We get a small bag of clothes and kindly accept.

*"I going hele on and stay with my family... my husband is hard head, he going stay right on this beach."* Family of 4, two keiki in Paukukalao. Their 4 year old girls snatches a baby bear from Keku's outstretched hand...Sean smiles at the family and gives his aloha.

*"Do you know where I can find a good Church, a Bible church, a church that reads its Bible and believes it?"* Sean offers him suggestions... we both sense some struggle and some mental illness.

*"Thanks...its nice to have people who care.."*

Today the Kanaha Park area is the busiest..... We slowly circle the family life center several times and park near the Kahului Library...only a few folks today. Another good run, another day of service for Yashua.... Sean and I "talk story" the entire run... faith, family, careers, doctrine, theology, denominational differences, faithful thoughts, different viewpoints, different worship styles, same Jesus, same sacrifice, same blood, same love... for all of us forever...

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August 2, 2014 - Rick Collins, Kit Hart and Paula Baldwin come across a tattered umbrella along Honoapi'ilani Highway during their West Maui Run yesterday (makai side of the roadway) hoping to get our attention. YOU are making a difference! There is a strong message in this "tattered, torn, and abused umbrella...remember the umbrella...they are waiting for us. Peace, Keku (Photo by Kit Hart)

Comments:

*"Three smiling faces, that's all I need...."* (a client to the ACCW workers)

*"You don't know how much people depend on you every week, thank you so much...."*

A Woman asks Paula Baldwin to pray for her and her children....she asked Paula to pray *"that they find housing."*