

A CUP OF COLD WATER SNAPSOTS & REFLECTIONS – SEPTEMBER 2014

September 27, 2014 - St. John's Kula Festival

September 24, 2014 (Taskie Hoopii, Paul Javier, Soot Bredhoff) Central Maui Serve: 60, Mileage: 22

We are blessed with a delivery of 45 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches from our Buddhist sister and brothers, led by Kallie Keith Agaran (and others!) from the Kahului Hongwanji as they rise early, make the sandwiches and deliver them to the GSC new supply room before the mission run. Taskie reported plenty of thankful hands that ate the sandwiches on the spot, with one stop serving 8 sandwiches to a family. Taskie reported a steady central maui run as they served 60.

September 23, 2014 - ACCW In-reach Collective (Kit Hart, Paula Baldwin, Deacon Cris South and Mother Linda Decker)

A conversation between a run leader and a young man in Kihei:

Tears on his cheeks "This is my first day trying to stay off of alcohol, and it is so hard, So hard."

His hands tremble, and tears become weeping.

I reach my hand for his shoulder. "Would you like us to pray for you?"

"Oh, yes! This is so hard, and yet, yet, if I don't stop I will die."

Lord, grant us the ability to think with your mind, to hear with your ears, to see with your eyes, to speak with your mouth, to walk with your feet, to love with your heart. Help us to stand on you, our rock of salvation, for all other ground is sinking sand. Amen

Common prayer: A liturgy for ordinary Radicals

September 21, 2014 (Keku Akana, Rheena Campbell, Amy Shim) South Maui, Served: 61, Mileage: 31

12 folks are served right at Good Shepherd as the 9:00 a.m. service begins. Some clients are hot and impatient today. Our team must use maximum verbal judo and roll out the chilled water.

Its a very busy, sweltering hot day in Kihei! All of our stops have a regular flow of folks. 25+ folks line up at the Kalama Parks-- everyone wants chilled water (we refill our cooler as we roll along). Rheena Campbell is seeking young folks for job core and she assists out faithful ACCW worker Amy Shim to do food distribution. Rheena converses with a few of the young one about Job Core along our mission route. It's a difficult sell to young folks who don't like rules and have never had any form of mentoring or discipline. Amy Shim is her usual lady of aloha, serving with her smile and caring attention.

We have the new Maui Homeless Alliance Referral cards, a whole bunch of new Our daily bread booklets and our Keki resource guide for young mothers. Today we try to push the literature out and the baseball caps flow out aplenty today.

"What you have cat food again?.....(yes we do)"

"Look my cuts, try look, all bust up.....you get big kine band aids?.....(yes we do)"

"No fish steaks today? Anne buys for us.... I know Anne...she checks the sales and helps you folks.. I know her"(Anne Kasin)... (Yes, we are very thankful for Anne and all she does for Trinity and ACCW.) Sorry we only had spam today and thank all of you for buying and donating!!!!!!!!!!!!

"Remember me, I can only eat the soft food...look at my teeth.....so no hard bars please...."

"I need some clean clothes for job hunting. I need to look better so I can get a job." (He gets a nice shirt and shorts from the van, razors to shave, soap to wash and one of the few towels we had.)

"Brah, this is like one toy store for us guys..... I mean try look, try look at this.... it's our toy store....." (local male Kalama Park)

Gentleman observing us serve the poor at the New Kalama Park Pavillion-- he brings us a large container full of Atkins Health bars."Here, take these for them... please, take them." I pass them off to Rheena and Amy and we distribute the whole lot by the end of the day.

Kamaole Beach Park - we serve our regular clients and the regular handicapped lady. Busy day in Kihei as we serve 60+ . Now we scramble the van back and prep for St. Joseph's Catholic Breaking Bread Ministry. Our South Maui shift is over... we say amen.. Amy shim is pau. Rheena and I still have St. Joseph's to go. We will meet Deacon Cris South and Cindy Akana upcountry.

St. Joseph's Breaking Braed Ministry (Deacon Cris South, Cindy Akana, Rheena Campbell, Keku Akana) Upcountry Makawao, Served: 56 (Total served South Maui and Upcountry: 117)

It's another unreal day at St. Joseph's Catholic. Their breaking bread (bb) outreach ministry team is feeling the "blues" as this is the last day of the ministry, as they prepare for their future and will be tearing down the old kitchen, hall and Gymnasium. Hopefully they will ignite back up after their new facility is pau... memories... strong memories. God bless the Mother Church. We circle in a beautiful prayer and a few of the BB team folks speak, then a nice parable of service is spoken and the pule is given, and the meals are served. Their team led by Kula Hospital Head Chef Rorick Kramer, (and a whole bunch of beautiful folks) whips up some serious grinds --a plate lunch full of shoyu chicken, fried rice, pork & beans, a burrito type food wrap, cream filled malasada's, peanut/choc deserts...and wait.... Portuguese Bean Soup! The ACCW team also gets "attacked" with love, and plate lunches, soup, desserts and a whole entire chocolate cake comes our way....the cream filled malasada dessert is down right unlawful!

ACCW sets up a table full of wahine, keiki clothes, kid shoes, hygiene items, dog foods, men's clothes and misc. items. A steady flow of thankful clients take their needs and come to the van for other items (non-food items only). Plenty of young mothers and their keiki.... people roll in and out with their plate lunches, smiles, gratitude. We watch the hand of Christ in action at this Breaking Bread Ministry. Not many services to our sheltered and house less poor on the Upcountry and East side of of Maui. The Van is "puka pocket" (pretty empty) by the end of this sabbath day of service.

"Oooh look at that, community care van. It is just nice that you all care enough... it's just nice to know there are people who care." (Older female client of Breaking Bread ministry)

September 20, 2014 - (NJ Santiago, John Tomoso, Frank Wiseman) West Maui, Served: 49, Mileage: 50

BJ reports a steady flow of folks at the usual areas. BJ delivers a donated 800+ mini body lotions from Lucy Santiago's hotel for ACCW! Unreal. BJ also reminds us we need: towels, shorts, rubber slippers & socks... (all items out of stock or low) Frank Wiseman from St. John's joins us again after a short sabbatical and we are glad we did. Hau'oli Tomoso continues towards his ordainment...please continue to pray and support him! Steady supplies continue to flow in from all 4 Episcopal churches and others!

September 10, 2014 - ACCW In-reach Collective (Kit Hart, Paula Baldwin, Deacon Cris South and Mother Linda Decker)

Appearances: That fellow looks like he could use our help. His disheveled clothes are what Gary Zukav would call his "earth suit"; as are our blue ACCW T-shirts.

Zukav says "souls see one another as souls who are wearing different earth suits, skin color, gender, size" ...(my own earth suit is getting old and quirky.)

Zukav says: "Active kindness (means) being appropriate...how souls relate to souls...providing what is needed when it is needed is active kindness. (We) start by seeing ourselves and others clearly. That is where active kindness begins."

(Keku Akana, Wendy Seki, Kit Hart) Central Maui, Served: 103, Mileage: 23

Right off the bat we serve one at Good Shepherd, get waived down by a young Hawaiian male in the Wailuku Municipal parking lot (three baby seats in the car, one baby in hand, and waiting for his wife in "drug court") He will "take anything we can give". We have a very steady and full run, encountering people at every stop except Waihee Beach park. We also serve eight families, 6 male keiki, 8 female keiki, two handicapped brothers two deaf brothers and 6 dogs. There is a whole bunch of discussion, as the day hits 10:30 am, the sun is pounding down on our clients and the volunteers. The chilled water is a major treat and it's the first item being passed as our lines form at most of our stops. We return to fort good shepherd - 3 solid hours of outreach and our bin's emptied of food. We replenish the van's food, sweep it out, tidy it up and get it back to the Decker ranch perch.

"Thanks brudda for coming over here, the salvation army is closed today and it is hot." (Mini camp across of the Kahului Salvation Army)

"Thank you, thank you, thank you....." (female)

"So I am unemployed because I had a disagreement with my boss. Do you know how hard it is to get food stamps, stay in contact with government agencies and do the things you have to do, when all you can really do is worry about food and where it will come from? Let me tell you, its hard to get a job when your focus is on food."

"We saw your van and we followed you and we saw you turn into here (three Hawaiian women, one of which we have served before, one female 18ish and very pregnant. She is given info on Alulike, Oha and other educational programs for Hawaiians.

"I lost my son, lost my brother and I lost my father....all in 1-1/2 years. It's hard." (Ethnic Hawaiian river mouth)

Young Hawaiian wahine (under 23ish @ Kanaha), "I see the van, but you know, I don't want to bother, I don't want to take stuff. I really don't, so today is the first time I came to you.....so thanks eh"

September 7, 2014 - (Deb Lynch, Jomar Rabara) South Maui, Served: 35, 2 dogs, 3 cars, Mileage: 32

Our first and only wahine run leader Deb Lynch leads the mission today with our youngest volunteer rider Jomar Rabara! He is taking it all in nice and slow and hopes to lead missions someday. Deb Reports getting

off to a slow start, as clients needs slow them down at Good Shepherd Church and the ABC store stop in North Kihei. They encounter an emotional run, with some tears shed and some prayers said. See Deb's notes:

Sunday Kihei run began a bit later because some clients showed up at GSC happy to have assorted clothing to choose from, but oh my! So much to decide about! Behind the ABC store we serve clients. The sun is thick and hot. Late to Trinity, and - oh no - we have missed Jon! (Note to self - be sure to let Trinity stop volunteers know we can run late - but we will show up!).

No one at Maui Sunset, but Jomar spies a family wandering up the beach near the VFW Hall. Shy little girl gets the purple stuffed dog toy. Good observing, Jomar!

Where's the Library Guy? Oh wait - he's down the street. We stop. He asks in the softest voice for personal hygiene items - yay, he's making choices, and expressing wants!

Kalama bowls - we meet a new guy (young lady friend says he's new here so she's showing him the ropes). He's astounded that we give out food, clothing, and items for free. And that people will donate to a program like this. (Big kudos to all you donors!!!) He wants to know how he can donate (at any Episcopal Church) Hmm, he's young and who knows where he'll end up!

Kalama Park - Many familiar faces and two very happy dogs. And Evan - tears on his cheeks, "This is my first day trying to stay off of alcohol, and it so hard. So hard." His hands tremble, and tears become weeping. I reach my hand for his shoulder, "Would you like us to pray for you?" "Oh, yes! This is so hard, and yet, yet, if I don't stop I will die." We pray for strength, courage, angels to guard him, and God to cover him with mercy. Sobs now, "I don't want the others to see me like this." (They are standing back respectfully. They know. They've been there). He sighs, and gathers food, water, (extra fruit for his health). Be brave, Evan. He nods.

Back to GSC, one more drive through the parking lot. A frail, old man (new guy for me) stands alone and gives a feeble wave. I stop. "Would you like water?" "Oh yes!" "And food?" "Oh, yes, yes!" He looks into the bag of items and starts crying, "This is the nicest thing that anyone has done for me." I think his words just about sums it up for ACCW.

Lord Jesus, please guide our thoughts, words, hands, and hearts in all we do. Amen

Until we crank up the care-van again.....

September 6, 2014 - (Duke Casper, Louise Aloy, Donna Tarsitano, Fr. Bill Albinger) West Maui, Served: 52, Mileage: 52

No customers til we reach the shelter above the aquatic center. While Louise and Donna expertly serve about 10 clients, I'm captivated by a new customer's story. Ray, a robust, handsome, middle-aged haole, glibly tells his tale. "I was arrested by border patrol in Texas. An old warrant that I neglected to deal with a bunch of years ago from Maui. Had to do with a hotel bill I was disputing. MPD escorts me back to paradise where a sympathetic judge throws the case out. I ask for a ticket back to Texas so I can continue my journey back to Moscow where I am currently living. I'm a freelance engineer and use Moscow as my home base. The women love American men. I'll leave it at that." he says with a chuckle. "Unfortunately, MPD doesn't feel they owe me transport back. I've been to the mayor, the court, social services, you name it. No dice. So, I

guess I'll pick up some odd jobs and save the dough for a ticket. Know anyone looking for an engineer? " At a loss on how to respond, I ask Ray if he'd like a bottle of water, slippers, a snack?? "No thanks " he says, "how about a ticket to Moscow?"

Pick up Father Bill at Holy Innocents and head for the Banyan Tree. Busy as usual. Young Zane, passed out on a bench in the park with an empty bottle of booze at his side. Business as usual for the rest of the crew. While pulling around to the library stop, I spot wheelchair Chuck in a heap alongside his chair. A tourist is awkwardly trying to get him back into his chair. Chuck is a sorry site. He is as filthy as you could possibly get, wrecks of feces and urine and is swarming with flies. He is inebriated most of the time and supports his bad habits by deliberately falling out of his chair when he spots an opportune crowd. 911 has been called numerous times and he declines their help. We make a detour to offer him some help, but by the time we get to him, he is happily munching on an over-sized sandwich and washing it down with a bottle of water.

Calvin, our Vietnam Vet, greets us with silent handshakes and a verbal thank you as he quickly departs. This is progress for us. Calvin is on the streets by his own choice, living in a makeshift bunker beside the Smokehouse Restaurant. He is watched over by a multitude of angels in the community as well as his extended Ohana.

We meet Gordon and a few of his buddies at the private Makai park on north Front street. Gordon is extremely agitated today. Mugged, robbed and left in a heap the nite before, he is ready to leave Maui. "Maui has changed so much s. I'm so tired of sleeping with one eye open. I sold some stock, should have the money any day now. Right now, I'm broke." He demonstrates by reaching into his pocket and holds up 11 cents between his filthy fingers. Thin as a rail, blotchy complexion and jittery body, he is a pitiful site.

As we ready to depart, a neighbor approaches the van and politely asks if he can speak to me. He explains the problem the local folks are having with the homeless in their park., "They have no respect for the park or for us," he calmly relates. "They party, urinate, defecate, and leave their trash. We call the police, they leave for a while, and then they're back again. We would appreciate it if you wouldn't make this one of your stops." I sympathize and tell him I'll talk to them and ask them to meet us down the road by Honu Restaurant where we usually serve them. Gordon is receptive to the request and tells the gang to meet us down the road on Saturdays.

Last stop, Bible thumper Stanley. He is characteristically cheerful today and uncharacteristically brief. Drop Father Bill off and head back to the barn.

Reflecting on our run on the ride back, I ask Louise and Donna what was most upsetting to them today. Both agreed it was Gordon, but agreed that wheelchair Chuck was equally as disturbing. We say silent prayers for all and count our blessings. Peace and God Bless us all. Duke

September 3, 2014 - (Taskie Hoopii, Sean Foley, Paul Javier) Central Maui, Served: 69, Mileage: 21

Run Leader Taskie Hoopii reports a steady and busy run. He notes that there are less clients around the Vevau Street area (since security has been giving trespass notices). Sean Foley has again generously donated 25 full sized Gideons Bibles. Taskie notes an increase in families served on the street (5+) today.