



Do Good and Do it Now

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Aia ma Iope kekahi haumāna wahine, ‘o Tabita ka inoa, ma ka ho‘ohālike ‘ana ho‘i, ua ‘ī ‘ia ‘o Doreka, ua nui nā hana maika‘i, a me nā manawale‘a āna i hana ai.- ‘Oihana 9:36

⁹ Mai ho‘opalaleha kākou i ka hana maika‘i; no ka mea, i ka wā pono e ‘ohi auane‘i kākou, ke ho‘onāwaliwali ‘ole kākou. ¹⁰ No laila, e like me ko kākou manawa maopopo, pēlā e hana maika‘i aku ai kākou i nā mea a pau, ‘oia‘i‘o ho‘i i ka po‘e ‘ohana mana‘o‘i‘o,- Galatia 6:9-10

“Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which when translated means Dorcas); this woman was excelling in acts of kindness and charity which she did habitually.”- Acts 9:36

“Let’s not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let’s do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”- Galatians 6:9-10

There are those individuals who will always go over and above in caring for others. What is it about them that would show so much concern for those in need? The kokua, those who support the patients of Kalaupapa, must be woven from the same cloth, for those whom I’ve come to know throughout the years that I’ve been going there, all have a super generous heart and kind spirits. I met one such individual, not in life, but in death.

I received a call one day from a woman whose father had just passed away. I didn’t know who she or her father was, but I wasn’t about to turn her away, so I agreed to do the service. As I met with the family, I quickly learned why God would have me be the one to serve this ‘ohana, for we had one thing in common- our love for Kalaupapa. His name was Yukito “Tree” Kamemoto and he had been a mechanic and assistant administrator of Kalaupapa for 35 years. His wife Lillian was a seamstress who sewed or altered clothes for the patients.

Tree took the job with a heavy heart, for it meant that he had to leave his young children with his family to raise, as children under 12 were not permitted in the settlement. Tree threw himself into his work, not just in maintaining the equipment, but also keeping life active for the patients. When a tidal wave wiped out the shoreline, Tree and Lillian hand carried buckets of water to the patients’ homes and the hospital. He was a leader for the Kalaupapa Boy Scout troop and a founding member of the Kalaupapa Lions Club. For Easter, he and Lillian took a generator up to the cross, situated on a hill overlooking the town, so it would be lit at night. His giving spirit didn’t end when he retired. He continued to serve the community on Maui by planting over a hundred trees in Central Maui. His tireless spirit was a gift from God and so many benefitted from it.

What about you? Do you feel the tug to do something for others? When you hear of someone having a difficult time, do you reach out with food, funds, or friendship? Times are difficult right now and with so many who are hurting, we don’t need to be in a place like Kalaupapa to make a difference, we can do it wherever you are. It is said, “the right time to do the right thing is always right now.” So, don’t tire in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary.