



Kahu Kalani Wong, KS Maui

³ Mai hana ‘oukou i kekahi mea me ka hakakā a me ka ho‘oki‘eki‘e wale; akā, me ka na‘au akahai e hō‘oi aku i ka mana‘o maika‘i iā ha‘i, ‘a‘ole iā ‘oukou iho. ⁴ ‘A‘ole ho‘i e nānā ana kēlā mea kēia mea i kāna iho; akā, e nānā ho‘i kēlā mea kēia mea i kā ha‘i.- Pilipi 1:3-4

³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.- Philippians 2:3-4

When the Pilgrims arrived in the “New World” seeking religious freedom, little did they know how harsh the winters were. Many died or became gravely ill. Fortunately, the Wampanoag tribe saw them struggling and taught them how to harvest from the land and the sea so the Pilgrims could survive and thrive. To celebrate their new harvest, a great feast was held which we call the first Thanksgiving. Who knows what would have happened if the Wampanoag hadn’t extended a helping hand.

Similarly, a group of exiles were cast off into a “foreign land” where the weather conditions were also harsh, and they didn’t have any accommodations to settle into. Fortunately, those who were living in the area gathered items together and helped them get assimilated to their new home, even though the arrivals were sick with Hansen’s Disease. Kalaupapa may have been initially a foreboding place, but we know it for the warm welcome we have always received.

While the Wampanoag or the initial habitants of Kalaupapa didn’t have to help out the new residents, they displayed ho‘okipa nui. They put aside their own personal interests to consider the needs of others so their new friends could survive and thrive in their adopted locales.

In this season of Thanksgiving, think about those who stepped in to help you at your new school, new workplace, or new neighborhood. Give thanks for their ho‘okipa. Let that spur you on to think of those who are in need. Act as Iesū’s hands, feet, mouth, and heart to help them, sharing your aloha to help carry their burden or ease their pain in whatever way you can. Donate items to clothe their backs or feed their hungry tummies. Share a meal and some warm fellowship. Say a prayer for their spiritual strength and courage. Do something because someone once had your back, and you are now able to get someone else’s back. Mahalo ke Akua for that opportunity to share his abundant blessings that he has given you.