



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH, HONOLULU**
Growing in Christ through Spirit, mind, body, & 'ohana



(In English and Tongan)

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2



Fakafeta'i e tau a'usia 'a e Fa'ahita'u 'o e 'Etiveni,

'Oku tau fiefia mo fakafeta'i lahi ki he 'Otua Mafimafi ko e faingamalie ko 'eni ke tau kau fakataha mo e ki'i tohi ni he fa'ahita'u 'Etiveni. Ko e tohi ni, ko e ngaahi a'usia fakalaumalie na'e tatanaki mei he ni'ihii pe 'o e ngaahi famili 'o e Siasi 'o fokotu'utu'u'aki 'a e Tohi ni, ke ne tokoni'i fakaloto mo e laumalie kitautolu lolotonga 'a e fononga he fa'ahita'u fakakoloa ni. 'Oku kamata ia mei he 'Uluaki Sapate 'o e 'Etiveni, Tisema 1, 2019 ki he Fa'ahita'u 'o e 'Epifani, Sanuali 6, 2019. 'Oku talamonu atu ke mou ma'u ha fa'ahita'u kelesi'ia mo Kalaisi'ia he faka'osinga 'o e ta'u ni, pea pehe foki ki he kamata'anga 'o e Ta'ufo'ou na.

'Oku tau fakamalo lahi kia Kim Houff ki hono fokotu'utu'u mo palani 'a e Tohi ni, pea pehe foki kia Viliami Ongo Koli/Sita Vaivao 'i hono liliu 'a e konga lahi 'o e ngaahi a'usia taki taha.

'Ofa ke mou ma'u ha Kilisimasi Fiefia mo ha Ta'ufo'ou Monu'ia foki.

'Ofa lahi atu mo e Lotu,

Faifekau Linita 'U. Moa





Aloha and a blessed Advent to you. We are so blessed to be able to present this devotional guide to you. It is a remarkable collection of different perspectives of faith from members of our Honolulu First United Methodist *'ohana*. The guide will extend from the First Sunday of Advent (December 1) through Christmas and concluding on Epiphany (January 6) We hope that it will inspire your own hearts and minds as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child.

We are grateful to our devotional guide editor, Kim Houff, whose vision and hard work have made this wonderful work possible. We are also grateful to all of the authors who contributed a devotional.

May this Advent and Christmas be one in which the Holy Spirit will come into each of our lives in a special way!

Grace and aloha,
Pastor Tom Choi



December 1—1st Day of Advent

Isaiah 40:3: A voice is crying out: "Clear the LORD's way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!"

As we begin the Advent season, we can sense the happiness of celebrating and rejoicing in the coming of our Messiah. In order to meet that day and hour, we need to prepare for His coming. Isaiah spoke of the preparation we need to do. John the Baptist is the messenger who came before to announce the way of preparation. We need to level the way, remove all impediments, and straighten the way for the King of kings and Lord of lords. As it compares to us today, our life is the way to prepare for the coming of our Lord. Our life is the wilderness meant by the prophet, in which John was to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah.

Pastor Linita U. Moa

'Aisea 40:3 Ko e le'ō ē 'oku kalanga, "Teuteu 'i he toafa 'a e hā'ele'anga 'o Sihova, fakatonutonu 'i he fonua mamate ha hala tanu ma'a hotau 'Otua!"

Ko e fa'ahita'u fakafiefia 'eni 'o 'etau fononga 'a e 'Etiveni, 'Oku tau 'amanaki lelei ki he tala fakafiefia he me'a'ofa fungani 'o e mo'ui 'a e tangata. Pea 'I he te'eki te tau a'u ki he 'aho 'o e me'aofa fungani, kuo pau ke fai 'a e teuteu ki lahi ki he 'aho koia, pea ko e teuteu 'aia 'oku lea ki ai 'a e Palofita, "Teuteu 'i he toafa 'a e hā'ele'anga 'o Sihova, fakatonutonu 'i he fonua mamate ha hala tanu ma'a hotau 'Otua!" Kuo pau ke toka lelei, 'e tanu 'a e ngaahi luoluo, holoki 'a e ngaahi tafungofunga, pea fakatokalelei mo fakatonutonu 'a e hala, ke ha'ele mai ai 'a e Tu'I 'o e ngaahi Tu'I mo e 'Eiki 'o e ngaahi 'eiki. Ko e tala fakapalofita ko 'eni, 'oku 'uhinga ia kia Sione Papitaiso, koia 'a e paionia 'o e Misaia, ke talamu'omu'a 'a e pau ke tau teuteu ki he 'amanaki hoko mai 'a e Misaia. Ka kia kitautolu he 'aho ni, ko 'etau teuteu hotau loto mo e mo'ui ke tali'aki 'a e Misaia.

Pastor Linita U. Moa

December 2—2nd Day of Advent

Isaiah 2:4: God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war.

Isaiah's prophesy brings hope and I wish I can be around to witness this phenomenon! He will judge between the nations, settle disputes of mighty nations, even lift up these government above his shoulder! He is able to do all this because He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 6:9: "For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, His

name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Paini Harris

Aisea 2:4: Te ne fai ha fakamaau 'I he lotolotonga 'oe ngaahi pule'anga mo fakatonu 'a e ngaahi me'a fekau'aki mo e ngaahi kakai lahi. Te nau tuki 'enau ngaahi heletaá ke hoko ko e ngaahi mata'i-palau Pea mo 'enau ngaahi taó ke hoko ko e ngaahi hele 'auhani. 'E 'ikai hiki 'e ha pule'anga ha heletā ki ha pule'anga, Pea 'e 'ikai te nau toe ako tau.

Ko e palofisai ko eni 'a 'Aisea, 'oku ne 'omai 'a e 'amanaki lelei ki he ngaahi 'aho fakamui. Ko 'eku faka'amuu ke tau mo'ui fuoloa ke tau mataa ha 'aho pehe ni. Poupou ki ai e himi #541

Ko e Tala'ofa 'a hotau 'Otua , na'e pau ke ha'u:
Ko e Hau Toka talanga'I mei mu'a. Pea Na'e lau 'a e kau palofita, Ko e 'Eiki te Ne fakangata hia.

'Aisea e ne tala 'e 'alo'I, Ha Tamasi'i:
'Eiki 'o Langi mo Mamani foki; Pea 'e hilifaki hono uma, 'a e pule ki he tukui fonua.

Kalauni lahi o e 'uu huafa, 'E 'ai ki ai;
Teunga kotoa he ngaahi pule'anga; Pea 'e ta'eliliu 'a hono hau, 'O'ona 'a e Ko eni mo e Kaha'u.

Vaivai ki ai 'a e ngaahi Haukinima; 'o nau punou;
Ha'u 'a e kakai na'e nofo ha'isia, 'o nau punou;
Tau'ataina leva 'ae popula. Pea fai siupeli 'ae 'u fonua. 'Emeni.

Paini Harris

December 3—3rd Day of Advent

Isaiah 9:2: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

God saw us living in darkness and sent His Son to us so we could live in light.—the light of Jesus Christ. Just as night ends with the dawning of a new day, so does darkness recede when the love and light of Jesus enters our hearts. Let us rejoice that he has come to earth to teach us how to love God and each other. Let us give thanks we live our lives everyday in light with the knowledge that God loves us.

Karlen Ross

Aisea 9:2: Ko e kakai na'e nofo he po'uli 'Oku nau mamata ki ha maama lahi; Ko e nofo 'i he fonua 'o e 'ata 'o mate,'Oku ulo ha maama kiate kinautolu.

Na'ane ilo'I 'e tau nofo 'I he fakapo'uli pea 'omi hono 'alo ke tau nofo ai ki he maama. Koe maama 'a Sisu Kalaisi. 'Ihe malu'aki mai 'ae po pea ho'ata mai 'ae 'aho fo'ou pea mole 'ae fakapo'uli 'I he 'ofa pea moe maama 'a Sisu 'I ho tau loto taki taha. Ke tau fiefia he kuo ne hoko mai ke tau ako ai 'I he 'e ne 'ofa. Tau fakafeta'I pea mo fakamalo ko 'e tau ma'u 'ae mo'ui 'I he 'aho kotoa pea moe 'ofa 'ae 'Otua.

Karlen Ross

December 4—4th Day of Advent

Isaiah 7:11: "Ask a sign from the LORD your God. Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven."

When have you asked God for a sign, if ever? I have a friend who challenged me with this question. She shared with me that she regularly asks for a sign and is very specific in her request. Even though I was skeptical, I asked myself, "What do I have to lose?" After all it's scriptural; and I always thought if it's in the Word, it must be true.

It took me quite a while to follow through, and I finally asked God for a sign. I was rather stressed and said, "If you show me a ray of light on this mountain as I go down the hill near my home, I will turn all my worries over to You." It was a very cloudy day so I really wasn't expecting to see that ray of light. BUT GOD... There wasn't one ray of light shining on the mountain as I approached the hill but THREE RAYS. Our God is not only awesome but faithful to His Word. I am not the least bit skeptical now and ask for a sign whenever I forget that He hears me, knows my needs, and far exceeds them. He's never failed me yet!

As we approach the celebration of His birth, let us remember who we are in Christ: His beloved child whom He loves unconditionally.

Beverly Aiwohi

Isea 7:11: Kole ma'au ha faka'ilonga meia Sihova ko ho 'Otua: 'o fai hifo ki lolofonua, pe fai hake ki he taukakapa.

Kuo ke 'eke kihe 'Otua kene 'o atu ha faka'ilonga? Na'e pole'I au 'e he taha 'a hoku kaunga me'a. Na'a 'ane vahevahe mai kia au, 'oku ne kole ma'u pe ki he 'Otua kene 'omi ha faka'ilonga ki he ngaahi me'a 'oku ne fa'a kole. Pea ne ongo na'e 'ikai keu fu'u tui ki he 'ene talanoa, 'I he 'aho ia 'e taha, na'aku fakakaukau keu 'ahi'ahi kole ki he 'Otua ha faka'ilonga ke mahino kia au 'oku ne ongo'I 'eku kole.

‘Ihe ‘aho ia ‘e taha, na’aku matu ‘aki ongo’I ongosia mo’oni hoku sino peau ongo’I ki hoku sino na’e hoha’a ‘o ‘ikai keu ‘ilo pe koe ha nai ‘ae ‘uhinga. Na’aku kole “Kapau teke fakaha mai ha huelo ‘I he lā’a, teu foaki kotoa atu ‘a ‘eku ngaahi loto mo’ua ki koe”. Koe ‘aho ia na’e fakapopo’uli pea matamata ke ‘uha, na’e ‘ikai teu‘amanaki ‘e ‘asi ha huelo lā’a ‘I he ‘aho ni. Kae fakafoki fa, ‘I he ‘eku fononga mai ‘I he hala pule’anga, kuo ‘asi ‘ae huelo ‘oe lā’a ‘o hange pe ko ia na’aku kole. Na’e ‘ikai ke toe ‘asi ha huelo lā’a ia ‘I ha feitu’u pe koe mo’unga, Ko ho tau ‘Otua koe ‘Otua ‘oku lelei ‘I he taimi kotoa pe. Talu mei ai, ‘ikai keu toe fehu’ia ‘ae ‘Otua. ‘Oku ou ‘ilo’I ‘oku ne ongo’I ‘eku ngaahi fiema’u pea ‘oku ne ongo’I ‘eku kole faka’aho.

‘Ihe ‘amanaki ke tau fakafiefia’I ‘ae ‘aho ne ‘alo’I ai, tau manatu’I ma’u pe ‘a ‘ene ‘ofa ta’e filifili mānako

Beverly Aiwohi

December 5—5th Day of Advent

1 Corinthians 2:9: But this is precisely what is written: God has prepared things for those who love him that no eye has seen, or ear has heard, or that haven’t crossed the mind of any human being.

In July 2000, I went on my first mission trip to Nepal. We held a medical camp in the office of a school in a village called Kotgoan. We were invited to hold the camp by an elderly man who was the only Christian in the village. He wanted his village to be healed, not only by the medical staff but also by Jesus. Many came and stood in a long line for hours in the hot sun. I didn’t know if any were saved that day but many had their physical needs met. In 2009 (see photo), I had the opportunity to return to Kotgoan. Not only did the village have many families that were saved, but they were blessed with land to build a church, blessed with the funds to put up a church building, AND they now had their own pastor! Praise God!

In early 2000, I would not have imagined that God would send me halfway around the world to share the love of Jesus. During the medical camp, I didn’t see any miraculous healing or even any major medical problems (only gastric reflux, worms, vitamin deficiency, dehydration), but God had already prepared the hearts of the villagers to receive Him before we even got there because of the faith of one elderly man!

Prayer: Thank you, Father, for your faithfulness! Thank you for bringing to fruition all that you have prepared in advance if we just have faith as little as a mustard seed! In Jesus mighty name. Amen.

Sandi Brekke

I Kolinito 2:9: Ka na'e mo'oni pē 'a e lau 'a e Tohi, Ko e ngaahi me'a kuo 'ikai mātā 'e ha mata, pe fanongoa 'e ha telinga, pe ake ki he lotu 'o ha tangata; 'io, 'a e ngaahi fu'u me'a kuo teuteu 'e he 'Otua ma'a e kakai 'oku 'ofa kiate ia—

'I Siulai 2000, na'aku ma'u faingamalie ai keu folau pea moe kau ngaue faka-misinale ki he fonua ko Nepal. Na'a mau fai 'ae ngaahi ngaue 'ofa 'o hange koe fato'o fakafalemahaki 'I he ngaahi 'api ako 'I he kolo ko Kotgoan. Na'e fakaāfe'I ki mau tolu ēhe taha 'oe kau tangata 'eiki 'oe kolo, pea koe tokotaha pe 'eni na'e tui faka-Kalisitiane 'I he kolo. Na'ane fie ma'u ke mau faito'o 'ae kafo 'I hono kolo 'o 'ikai ngata pe 'I hono faito'o fakafalemahaki kae toe faito'o 'e Sisu 'e nau mo'ui. Na'e toko lahi 'au pito 'ae kakai na'a nau lava mai 'o tu'u laine 'I he lā'a ke nau sio ki he kau toketā pea mo Sisu. Na'e 'ikai teu 'ilo'I pe na'e ului ha taha kia Sisu, ka 'oku ou 'ilo'I na'e malava ho nau kafo faka sino 'o faito'o. 'Ihe 2009 (sio ki he la'I 'ata) na'aku toe ma'u ai ha faingamalie keu foki ki Nepal, Kotgoan. Na'e toko lahi 'aupito 'ae kau ului ki he lotu fakakalisitiane pea ne nau ma'u 'ha ngaahi tapuaki 'o ma'u ho lau kelekele pea lava 'o langa ho nau fale lotu, pea toe 'I ai foki pea mo 'e nau faifekau. Fakafeta'I 'Eiki !!

'I he 2000, na'e 'ikai teu 'amanaki 'e 'ave au 'ehe 'Otua ki ha fonua muli keu vahevahe mo ki nau tolu 'ae 'ofa 'a Sisu. Lolotonga 'o 'eku 'I he folau ko 'eni ko hono tokoni'I 'ae kakai ko 'eni 'I he faito'o faka-falemahaki, koe me'a pe na'aku 'iloi, koe ngaahi mahaki faka sino na'e moua ai 'ae kakai ko 'eni. Kae ta koe kuo 'osi teuteu 'e he 'Otua 'ae kolo ko 'eni pea mo ho nau lotu ke nau talitali koe 'uhi pe koe ki'I motu'a Kalisitiane 'e taha 'I he kolo.

Sandi Brekke



December 6—6th Day of Advent

John 1:5: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:1 is one of the most familiar verses in the New Testament, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” However, John 1:5 gives us a very powerful message about hope in time of darkness.

We recently had the opportunity to participate in a Bethel Music Victory Tour concert in Minneapolis. Bethel Music has grown from being a local church music ministry in Redding, California to a global outreach made up of a collective of songwriters, artists and musicians. Brian and Jenn Johnson are co-founders of Bethel Music which has produced over 15 albums and many music videos of contemporary Christian songs. Brian Johnson has dealt with anxiety and depression and co-wrote the song Living Hope that is a reflection of what he went through.

Lyrics from Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope

As I sang the words with others at the concert, I was reminded of words in John 1:5 that Jesus is the light shining in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome Jesus Christ, my living hope.

If there is any darkness in you or your family’s lives this advent season, know that Jesus was sent to shine through that darkness and is our living hope. May you enjoy the bright lights of the season keeping in mind that the brightest light is Jesus Christ, our living hope.

Dear God, thank you for the hope that you give in times of darkness. May we celebrate this advent season remembering the awesome gift of the good news of Jesus Christ who came to earth to teach us how to live and how to love.

Judith Olson

Sione 1:5: Pea ‘oku ulo ‘a e maama ‘i he po‘uli; pea na‘e ‘ikai lava‘i ia ‘e he po‘uli.

Sione vahe 1 veesi 1 ‘oku kau ‘ia ‘iha potu folofola maheni ‘I he fuakava fo’ou. “Na‘e ‘i he kamata‘anga ‘ae Folofola, pea na‘e ‘i he ‘Otua ‘ae Folofola, pea ko e ‘Otua ‘ae Folofola”. Ka ko Sione 1:5 ‘oku ne hanga’o ‘omi kia ki tautolu ‘ae ‘amanaki lelei ‘I ha potu fakapo’uli.

Na’a ma ma’u foki ha faingamalie ‘o ma kau fakataha pea moe kau tā me’a ‘iloa koe Bethel Music Victory Tour ‘I Minisota. Kuo tupu foki ‘ae kau tā me’a lea ko ‘eni me’i-he taimi na’a nau kamakamata ai me’ihe siasi ‘I Redding, California ki ha kau tā me’a lea ‘iloa ‘I mamani. Ko ha ongo matu’a ko Brian pea mo Jen Johnson na’a nā fokotu’u ‘ae ki’I kau tā me’a ko ‘eni. Kuon nau hiki ‘ae ngaahi ‘alapama pea pehe ki ha ngaahi vitio ‘I he ngaahi hiva fakalotu pea faka Kalisitiane. Ko Brian Johnson na’ane moua ‘I he mahaki koe anxiety pea moe depression pea na’ane fa’u ha fo’I hiva kihe tu’unga ‘oku ‘I ai ‘ene moui ‘o hange ko ia ‘oku hā atu ‘I ‘olunga.

‘Ihe ‘eku hiva ‘I he fo’I hiva ko ‘eni, ‘oku ne fakamanatu kia au ‘ae potu folofola ko ia Sione 1:5 ‘oku pehe ai, ko Sisu ko ha maama ‘oku ne ulo ‘I ha potu fakapouli pea ko ia ‘a ho tau ‘amanaki’anga.

Kapau ‘oku fakapopouli ho famili ‘I he faahi ta’u ko ‘eni ‘oe etiveni, ‘ilo’I ko Sisu na’ane hifo mai ke hoko koe maama pea ke ulo ‘ene maama ‘I ho tau ngaahi famili.

Lotu: ‘Otua, fakamalo atu ‘I ho’o foaki mai ‘a Sisu ke hoko ko ho mau ‘amanaki ‘anga ‘I he taimi ‘oe fakapouli. Fakataunage pe ke mau kau ‘I he fiefia ‘I he me’a ‘ofa fungani kuo foaki mai ki mamani ke mau ‘inasi ‘I he ‘ene ‘ofa.

Judith Olson

December 7—7th Day of Advent

Hebrews 13:16: Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.

I don’t know about you, but I am a recovering hoarder. I was raised by hoarders who built a new storage shed when the current one was full. Never even thought about getting rid of the stuff. As I matured, I realized that the air mattress in the shed had degraded and was no longer useful. The toys and tools were covered in dust and crud from years of not being used. How selfish has it been to keep these treasures from being used or played with just because I did not want to share.

Everywhere I look, I see more stuff and I want more stuff. Isn't that the American dream? To have a bigger house, a larger walk in closet to be filled with more stuff. A three or four car garage to hold all of the stuff that we might need in the future. Stuff and clutter creates anxiety.

If I am so focused on accumulating more stuff, then how can I possibly lift my head up and see opportunities to help others? A smile can lift a spirit. A hug can chase away the blues. Eye contact can make someone feel connected, if only for a moment. These are what I now try to treasure. I collect smiles, and hugs and connection. Treasures of my heart make me feel closer to Jesus. I have cleared out my three thousand square foot marital home, swept away all of the cobwebs, and feel free. Releasing the stuff and clutter has released my anxiety. I feel closer to God when I deny myself a new treasure and instead share what I do have with others.

I have faith in the promise that what I give away will return to me when I need it. I have let go of hoarding, but it remains a daily thought process. I still want new clothes but I really want everyone to have enough food and enough clothing.

Dawn Dobbs

Hepelū 13:16: Kae'uma'ā, 'oua na'a ngalo 'a e fai 'ofa mo e fai tokoni: he ko e alā feilaulau pehē 'oku hōhō'ia ai 'a e 'Otua.

'Oku 'ikai teu 'ilo kia koe, ka ko au, koe toko taha tanaki me'a kehekehe au. Na'aku tupu hake pe 'I ha 'api, ko ha 'api na'e tanaki me'a kehekehe pea koe taimi na'e 'ikai ke kei hao 'I hon mau 'api, pe 'I ho mau fale, na'e langa ha ki'I fale makehe ke tanaki ki ai 'ae ngaahi me'a kehekehe kuo mau tanaki. Na'e 'ikai pe ke 'I ai ha fakakaukau ia ke tuku atu ha ngaahi me'a ki he veve. Na'aku toki 'ilo'I ki mui, kuo lahi 'ae ngaahi me'a ia kuo maumau pea ta'e 'aonga kae kei tauhi pe. Hange nai na'aku siokita, 'ikai keu tufotua atu 'ae ngaahi me'a kehekehe ko 'eni kuo ou piki tai ai 'o tauhi 'I 'api na'a 'aonga ia ki ha taha. Ka ko hono mo'oni, na'e 'ikai pe keu fie vahevahe 'a e ngaahi me'a ko 'eni.

Koe lahi koe 'eku sio holo, koe lahi ange pe ia 'eku fie ma'u 'ae ngaahi me'a kehekehe ke lahi. Kā 'oku 'I kai koā koe moui 'ae Amelika? Ke lahi 'ae me'a kotoa. Ke tau hū atu ki hoto 'api ke ko ha loki 'oku fonu mai ai 'ae ngaahi koloa kehekehe. Ke 'I ai ha'ate fu'u fale 'oku lahi pea fonu fonu 'ae ngaahi loki 'I he ngaahi me'a kehekehe. Ki ha 'api kuo fonufonu 'ae tau 'anga me'alele 'I he me'a kehekehe.

Kapau 'e mo'umo'ua 'eku moui faka 'aho koe tanaki me'a kehekehe pē, pea 'e anga fēfē ha'aku 'ilo'I pe sio 'o ilo'I 'a ki nau tolu 'oku fie ma'u hā tokoni. Pea mo ha ki'I mali-mali. 'oku ne malava 'o tokoni ki ha si'I laumalie 'oku lolotonga fakapōpōuli. Koe

femāta aki pea mo hoto kaunga fononga faka'aho 'e hoko ia koe vaikau'aki. Koe ngaahi koloa 'oku ou tanaki 'I he ngaahi 'ahoni, koe ngaahi koloa 'oku ou ongo'I 'oku ou vāofi ai pea mo hoku 'Otua. Kou 'osi fakama'a 'a hoku fale pea tuku ange atu 'ae ngaahi me'a kehekehe na'aku tanaki me'ihee kuo hili pea tafi 'ae ngaahi 'uli. 'Oku ou ongo'I 'eku toe ofi ange ki hoku 'Otua.

'Oku ou tui, koe ngaahi me'a ko ia kuo ou foaki atu, 'e toe foki mai pe 'I ha taimi e fie ma'u ai. 'Oku 'ikai keu toe tanaki me'a kehekehe. 'Oku ou kei fie ma'u vala fo'ou ka 'I he taimi tatau, 'oku ou fie ma'u pe ke 'I nasi 'a hoku kaunga fononga 'I he ma'e tokoni pea moe vala.

Dawn Dobbs



December 8—8th Day of Advent

Philippians 2:4: Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

During Paul's imprisonment in Rome, he learned the word "contentment." This satisfaction he enjoyed came with the freedom from worry and anxiety after he became a Christian later in life.

In letters that Paul wrote to his Philippian friends while imprisoned, he expressed appreciation, thanksgiving, and admiration for their support and money. Paul did not know if he was going to be executed or not, but he still instructed and encouraged the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord, urging them to become aware of the joy rooted in Jesus Christ and not through external circumstances. The Apostle reminded his friends about Jesus' humility and encouraged them to fix their lives on Jesus' example.

Thinking of others' needs first is an expression of love which the Lord has told us is the greatest thing we can have for one another. Paul received no promise of release from his Philippian friends, nor did he expect any great advantages from them. Yet, he was able to take care of his own needs and still minister to them.

Paul was able to be free from worry in the shadow of imprisonment and unknown future because he believed Jesus Christ took all his troubles upon himself. Paul was satisfied with his life and appreciated the selflessness of his friends because he was living his life for the Lord. His anxiety was alleviated because he was concerned for everyone else and trusted in God, his Father, and Jesus Christ.

While taking care of ourselves, we need to help others. The Lord may not give us everything we want, but he gives us everything we need. Being gracious when giving to others is easy, but we need to remember to be gracious when it is our turn to receive.

Trixie North

Filipai 2:4: pea 'oua na'a takitaha tokanga ki he'ene me'a 'a'ana pē, ka ki he me'a 'a e kakai kehe foki.

'The taimi na'e kei ngaue popula ai 'a Paula 'I Loma, na'ae ma'u pe ha loto fiefia pea mo fiemalie. . Na'ane ongo'I 'oku tauataina pea 'I kai ke toe tokanga ki ha me'a kehe, koe tupu 'eni 'I he 'ene hoko koe Kalisitiane.

'The 'ene tohi ki Filipai, na'a ne fkamalo 'ia pe 'ae me'a kotoa pea moe ngaahi 'ofa kuo fai ange ki ai lolotonga 'e ne 'I pilisone, lolotonga 'eni, 'oku 'I kai tene 'ilo'I 'ae tu'unga 'oku 'I ai 'a 'ene moui. Ka na'ane fakaloto lahi pe ki he kainga 'o Filipai ke nau fiefia, 'o fiefia 'I he 'Eiki ma'u pe. 'I he taimi tātāu, na'ane faka loto lahi ki he kainga lotu 'O Filipai ke nau muimui 'I he mo'ui 'a Sisu.

Ko Paula ko hā toko taha na'e 'ikai mo'ui siokita, koe fakatātā mo'oni ia 'oe 'ofa 'a ia koe fekau mahu'inga ia na'e tuku mai 'e he 'Eiki ko Sisu Kalaisi. Neongo na'e 'ikai ke 'ilo'I 'e Paula pe'e tukuange ia mei pilisone pe 'e mata 'I pilisone, kā na'ane kei malava pe 'o tala 'ae 'ofa 'ae 'Otua.

Na'e ongo'I pe 'e Paula 'oku tau'ataina hono sino pea mo hono loto koe 'uhi ko 'ene tui kia Sisu Kalaisi pea na'ane 'omi 'ae loto faka nonga ki ai. Na'e fie malie pe 'a Paula pea na'e hounga 'ia 'I he 'ofa ki ai kuo fakaha 'ehe kainga lotu mei Filipai.

'Oku fakatauange pē, 'e malava ke tau tokonia 'a ki nau tolu 'oku fie ma'u tokoni 'o ikai ngata pe ia tau tolu pe. Tau manatu'I ma'u pe ke tau ma'u ha loto ko ha loto 'oku fakafeta'I 'Ihe taimi 'oku tau ma'u ai 'ae 'ofa me'I ho tau kaunga fononga 'I he māama ko 'eni.

Trixie North

December 9—9th Day of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-2a: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse: from his roots a branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him.

This passage speaks to the truth of the situation in Israel – a kingdom about to be conquered by the Assyrians; the description of a stump is apt for a nation nearly cut down. But there is a tiny bit of hope. The prophet Isaiah says that a shoot from that stump, symbolically the father (Jesse) of the greatest king of Israel’s history, David, would emerge and restore the fortunes of the nation. Jesus would be that shoot, and he would not only give hope for the nation of Israel, but for the entire world.

Prayer: O God of hope, many times in our lives, we have periods of despair, even feeling cut down. May the prophecy of Isaiah uplift us as we face the challenges of life.

Pastor Tom Choi

Aisea 11:1-2a: PEA ‘e fisiki mai ha lito mei he sino‘i ‘akau ‘o Sese, pea ‘e fua ha huli mei hono aka. Pea ‘oku nofo hifo ki ai ‘a e Laumālie ‘o Sihova, ‘a e laumālie ‘o e poto mo e ‘ilome‘a, ‘a e laumālie ‘o e fale‘i mo e mafai, ‘a e laumālie ‘o e ‘ilo‘i ‘o Sihova mo e ‘apasia ki ai.

Koe veesi folofola foki ko ‘eni ‘oku ne lea ‘I he mo’oni ‘oku ‘I ai ‘ae tu’unga mo’ui ‘a Isileli. Koha pule’anga ‘oku ‘amanaki ke taki popula ‘e ‘Asilia pea koe tefito’I ‘akau, ko ha pule’anga kuo tu’usi ki lalo. Ka ‘oku ‘I ai ‘ae ki’I ‘amanaki. Tala ‘e he Palofita ko Aisea ‘e tupu hake ha va’a mei hono ngaahi aka mei he tefito ‘o Sese, ko ha toko taha ‘e hoko koe tu’I ‘o ‘Isileli, ‘a Tevita na’ane hoko hake koe tu’I ‘o ne faka ma’opo’opo ‘a ‘Isileli pea mo mamani.

Lotu: ‘Otua mafimafi, lahi e taimi ‘I he ‘e mau mo’ui, mau ongo’I vaivai pea taimi lahi mau ongo’I hange kuo tu’usi ki lalo ‘e mau mo’ui. Tuku mu’a ke hoko ho’o folofola ‘I he ‘aho ko ‘eni ko ha fakalotolahi ke mau fehanga’I pea mo ho mau ngaahi fili ‘I he mo’uini.

Pastor Tom Choi



December 10—10th Day of Advent

Isaiah 11:6: The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and lion and the yearling together: and a little child will lead them.

In my office, on top of my bookcase, are some plush puppets of animals. I obtained these specifically to help illustrate to children this passage, which has been called, especially in paintings that envision what this passage would look like, the Peaceable Kingdom. I have a wolf and a cub, a sheep and a lamb, a lion and its cub, a cow, dog, porcupine, even a pig. They lie next to each other peacefully. Below these animal puppets are nativity scenes that I keep out year-round, which, of course, have the baby Jesus.

It's a simple, but powerful way that the hope of peace for the world is a possibility, as long as we receive the Christ child into our hearts.

Pastor Tom Choi

Aisea 11:6: Pea 'e nonofo 'a e ulofi mo e lami, pea 'e tākoto 'a e lēpati mo e ki'i kosi, pea fakataha 'a e kafi mo e laione mui mo e pulu sino, pea 'oku fakateka kinautolu 'e ha momo'i tamasi'i.

I 'he eku ofisi, i'he funga toloa fa'o anga tohi, koe fanga manu tamapua oku i'ai. Kuou omi ae fangamanu tamapua koeni, ke fakatata ki he fanau, ke nau ma'u ae ilo moe mahino ki ha puleanga fonu melino. Oku i'ai e ulofi, pea valevale, sipi, lami, laione mo ene ipu, koe pulu, kuli, manu kehe kehe, a'u pe ki he puaka. Oku nau takoto fakataha i'he melino. I'lalo hifo pe ai, oku i'ai ae kupu'i ata oe aho al'oi o Sisu, oku ou tauhi mei he ta'u ki he ta'u.

Koe kii faka tata ma'a ma'a pe ke tau faka mahu'inga'i ae amanaki oku tau ma'u ki ha fonua fonu melino, oka pau tetau ma'u ki ho tau loto ae anga oe tamaiki ia kalisi.

Pastor Tom Choi

December 11—11th Day of Advent

Ephesians 5:8: For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...

Before I became a believer, I was walking in darkness. I did feel that something was missing in my life, but I could not put my finger on it. I felt like life was a constant shade of gray. I did not know there was a Living God, nor did I know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. And I did not know who the Holy Spirit was. During those years of unbelief I was struggling along on my limited self-effort in everyday life, in work

and in my health and getting tired as a result. Now as a believer I say "Praise God!" for sending Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I now understand that Jesus was wounded for my transgressions, bruised for my iniquities, punished so I can receive peace, and that by His stripes I am healed (Is 53). Also, I say "Praise God!" for sending me the gift of the Holy Spirit who is my Advocate and Helper.

Now I am no longer walking in darkness but am now walking in the light, and as a result life now makes more sense and a tremendous burden has been lifted.

If anyone is struggling as I once was, please know that God loves you, and that he loves you so much that he gave to you His only begotten Son. Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Ask Him to come into your heart. And ask God to send you the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us all walk as children of God in His light. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Colleen Masaki

Efesō 5:8: he neongo ko e koto po‘uli kimoutolu ‘i mu‘a, ka ‘i onopooni ko e koto maama kimoutolu ‘i he ‘Eiki: mou laka ‘o taau mo e fānau ‘a maama;

‘Ihe taimi na’e ‘ikai keu tui ai, na’aku fononga ‘I he faka-pō’uli. Na’aku ongo’I ‘I he taimi lahi, na’e ‘ikai kakato ‘a eku mo’ui, hange ‘oku ‘I ai pe ha me’a ‘oku mole me ‘ihe ‘eku mo’ui, ka e ‘kai keu ‘ilo’I pe koe hā nai ia. Hange pe ‘oku faka-pōpō’uli ‘ae halanga fononga. Na’e ‘I kai teu ‘ilo’I ‘oku ‘I ai ‘ae me’ koe ‘Otua pea koe ‘Otua mo’ui, pea ‘I kai teu ‘I lo’I ‘a Sisu Kalaisi ko hoku ‘Eiki fakamo’ui. Pea ‘ikai foki keu ‘ilo’I ‘ae laumalie ma’oni’oni. ‘Ihe ngaahi ta’u ko ‘eni ‘o ‘e ku mo’ui, na’aku ongo’I na’e fakangatangata ‘eku mo’ui pea hange na’e fu’u faingata’a ‘ia ‘eku tu’unga mo’ui fakasino. ‘I he momeniti na’aku ma’u ai ‘ae tui, na’aku fakafeta’I ki he ‘Otua, ‘I he ‘ene ‘ofa ‘o ‘omi hono foha, ‘a Sisu Kalaisi ko hoku ‘Eiki fakamo’ui. Kuo mahino mai kia au, koe kafo ‘a Sisu pea lavelavea hono sino koe ‘uhi ko au, kae malava keu ma’u ‘ae mo’ui, melino pea moe ‘ofa. ‘Oku ou fakafeta’I foki koe ‘uhi ko ‘ene foaki mai ‘ae laumalie ke tūhulu ki he ‘eku fononga pea mo hoku tokoni ‘I he ‘aho kotoa pe.

‘I he ngaahi ‘ahoni, ‘oku ‘I kai keu toe fononga ‘I he faka-pō’uli ka ‘ihe māama, pea ‘oku ou malava ‘o ‘ilo’I ‘ae ‘uhinga ‘oe mo’ui ‘I he mamani pea kuo ou ongo’I mo’oni ‘eku tau’atāina.

Kapau ‘oku ke ‘I lo’I ha taha ‘oku nē ‘ongo’I faingāta’aia ‘o hange ko au, ‘I he kamata’anga, ‘ilo’I, ‘oku ‘ofa ‘ae ‘Otua kia koe. ‘Oku ne ‘ofa lahi ‘aupito he na’ane foaki hono ‘alo tofu pe ‘e taha ko Sisu Kalaisi ko ho ‘Eiki fakamo’ui. Kole ki ai kene ha’ele mai ‘o nofo ‘ia ho loto pea ke kole foki hono laumalie kene nofo ‘ia koe. Fakatauange ke tau fononga ‘I he maama ‘a Sisu Kalaisi.

Colleen Masaki

December 12—12th Day of Advent

James 2:15-16: Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

What is easy to do is also easy not to do.

“Action speaks louder than words” is not just a statement. I believe this scripture reminds me to take action the next time I’m given the opportunity to show God’s love to someone in need. Faith without works is dead.

Mark Brekke

Sēmisi 2:15-16: Ko eni, kapau ‘e masiva kofu ha tangata lotu, pe ha fine lotu, mo ‘ikai ‘aupito ma ‘u si ‘a me ‘a tokoni pea ka pehē ange ‘e hamou toko taha, ‘Alu ā, ‘oku fai pē homou fakamāfana, ‘oku fai pē homou fakamākona; ka ‘oku ‘ikai te mou ange ‘a e ngaahi me ‘a ‘oku tangi ki ai ‘a e sino; ko e hā hono ‘aonga, ‘ō?

Koe me’a faingofua taha ke fakahoko, ‘oku toe hoko pe ia koe me’a faingofua taha ke ‘oua ‘e fakahoko.

“‘Oku le’o lahi ange ‘ae ngaue, ‘I he lea ta’e ngaue”. ‘Oku ou tui ki he fakamanatu ‘oku fai ‘ehe folofola, keu ngaue ‘I he ‘eku kei ma’u ‘ae faingamalie ki hono talaki ‘ae ‘ofa ‘ae ‘Otua. Koe tui, kapau ‘oku ‘ikai ngāue’I, ‘oku mate ia.

Mark Brekke

December 13—13th Day of Advent

Galatians 4:4-5: But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

I was struggling with how to write a meaningful devotion based on this passage. There was nothing in these verses that “grabbed” me as usually happens when I start working on one. The passage starts with a comment about the time fully coming, which—I suppose—references all the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled and also the fact that God picked the exact right time. This seems to be a scene-setter, but didn’t really “grab” me. The other verses also seemed to just set the scene or re-cap it for the reader. I then turned to the Russian translation hopefully for some inspiration. In the Russian, the last verse ends with to receive “усыновление.” The word усыновление means “adoption,” which struck me more than the NIV English version—since adoption is a choice or a deliberate selection. It is amazing to think that God not only chose us, but also sent His son to redeem us for that adoption!! Let us pray with gratitude to God for his adoption of us!

Mark Houff

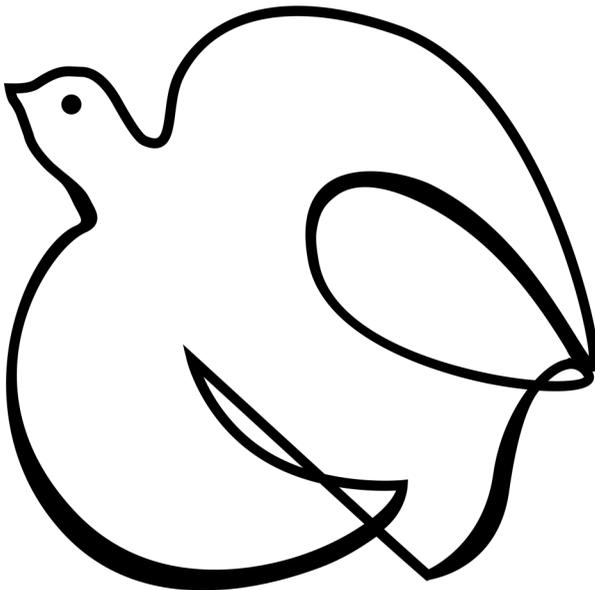
Kalētia 4:4-5: Ka 'i he hokosia leva 'a e fakakakato 'o e taimi, na'e fekau atu 'e he 'Otua hono 'Alo 'o'ona, 'a ia ne tupu mei ha fefine, mo tupu ko e mo'ulaloa ki he Lao; koe'uhi ā ke ne huhu'i 'a kinautolu 'oku mo'ulaloa ki he Lao, ka tau ma'u 'a e ohi.

Na'aku ongo'I faingata'a ia 'I he lesoni 'oe 'ahoni, ha founa ke tau fe'inasi'aki ai 'ihe koloa folofola 'oe 'ahoni. Hili 'eku lau 'ae folofola, na'e 'I kai pē teu ongo'I 'oku ngaue hoku loto 'o hange koe ngaahi veesi folofola kuo ou fa'a lau. Koe veesi folofola ko 'eni, 'oku kamata ia 'I taimi ka hokosia mai ai pea hange 'oku talanoa ia ki he hoko mai 'a Sisu ke faka kakato 'ae finangalo 'oe 'Otua ka na'e 'I kai keu ongo'I 'oku ngaue hoku laumalie. Na'aku fekumi leva ki he Tohi Tapu 'I he lea faka Lusia na'a tokoni kia au. 'Ihe Tohi Tapu faka Lusia, 'I he 'oku aki ia 'ae, ke tau ma'u mai pe koe "усыновление." Koe fo'I lea ko 'eni усыновление 'uhinga koe "ohi". Na'aku matu'aki ongo'I fiefia 'au pito 'I he 'uhinga, na'e 'ikai ke ngata pe 'I hono fili ki tau tolu 'e he 'Otua, ka nā'ane tuku mai hono 'alo tofu pe 'e taha ke ne faka foki ange ki tau tolu koe fanau ohi 'ae 'Otua. Ke tau lotu pea moe loto hangamalie ki he 'Otua 'I he ne 'ohi ki tau tolu ko 'ene fanau.

Mark Houff

December 14—14th Day of Advent

Luke 1:35: The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."



We are always perplexed by anything that happens in our life that we don't expect to happen, especially if something is impossible. The angel of the Lord appeared to Mary and told her that she is going to bear a son. That's unbelievable! The angel answered, "Mary everything will be under the power of the Holy Spirit, don't worry, what is impossible to man will be possible to God. God will be upon you and his power will hover over you, and the child will be called the Son of God." Sisters/brothers, keep believing and have faith in God, God will use us for his purpose. Keep your faith in God.

Pastor Linita Moa

Luke 1:35: Pea tali 'e he 'āngelo kiate ia, 'o pehē, 'e hoko mai 'a e Laumālie Mā'oni'oni kiate koe, pea 'e fakamalumu koe 'e he māfimaifi 'o e 'Eiki Taupotu: pea ko ia 'e ui ai 'a e hako tapu te ke fā'ele'i,

'Oku tau mo'utafu'ua ma'u pe 'i ha me'a 'e hoko mai kiate kitautolu ngalingali 'e ta'emalava. Ka e mo'oni 'a e folofola, 'oku 'ikai ha me'a ia 'e ta'emalava ki he 'Otua. Ko e tala 'a e 'angelo, 'oua te ke manavahe, he 'e fakahoko 'e he 'Otua 'a e me'a kotoa pe kiate koe. Pea 'oku ke monu'ia koe he fefine kotoa pe, he ko e fua tapu ho manava 'e fakahingoa ia ko e 'Alo 'o e 'Otua. Fakaongo ma'u pe ki he 'Otua ke fai 'a hono finangalo 'I he'etau mo'ui.

Pastor Linita Moa

December 15—15th Day of Advent

Luke 1:38. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me according to Your will." Then the angel left her.

This passage describes the Annunciation of Mary, when she hears the angel's announcement that she will be the mother of Jesus. She initially is in disbelief, but then accepts the news and says, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38; NRSV) One of my seminary classmates once exclaimed to me, "Isn't this verse exciting? It means that Mary stands in the tradition of patriarchs and prophets!" In the Old Testament, you will find Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Samuel, Isaiah, and others responding to God with "Here am I." Mary is not only fulfilling a traditional role, but opens up the possibility that women will have an even greater role in the story of God and the Good News. Indeed, in Luke's Gospel, the women figure prominently, such as in Mary's song of praise (the Magnificat), Elizabeth's verbal direction (while her husband is silent), and the women who will discover the empty tomb.

I believe that God has more in store for each of us. Whatever our traditional understanding of our role in God's story is, God has a greater role for each one of us. During Advent, may we discover what that may be!

Pastor Tom Choi

Luke 1:38: Pea pehē 'e Mele, Ko au 'eni, ko e kaunanga 'a e 'eiki: ke hoko mai kiate au 'o hangē ko ho'o me'a. Pea 'alu 'a e 'āngelo meiate ia.

Koe potu talanoa fekau aki moe fakamatala o' Mele, he taimi ne faka'ilo ki ai ae angelo, tene hoko koe Fa'e o Sisu. Neongo ene ta'e tui ki he me'a ni, na'a ne tali o pehe "Ko au eni ae sevaniti oe Otua, ke fai ho'o finangalo o faka tatau ki ho'o folofola. (Luke 1:38). Taha eku ngaahi kau me'a he ako na'ane pehe "kau e veesi koeni he veesi fakalata mo

fakafiefia” ae tu’u a Mele ‘i he haohao’anga oe kau Taki moe kau Palofita. I’he fuokava motu’a te ke kumi o ‘ilo’i oku tatau ae tali a Epalahame aisake, sekope, samiuela, isaia moe niihi pe, ki he Otua “Ko au eni”. Ikai ke ngata pe he hoko a Mele koe fa’e faka lao pe tukufakaholo ka oku ne hanga o omi ae fakakaukau ki he mahu’inga ae kakai fefine ihe Talanoa ae Otua mo ene Ongo ongo lelei. Koia, ihe kosipeli o Luke, koe hiva fakafeta’i a Mele, pea moe tu’utu’uni a Elisapeti lolotonga ne longo hono husepaniti oku mahu’inga ki he Otua. Pea moe kau fefine te nau mamata ki he ngeesi fonualoto.

Kuou Tui oku lahi e me’a oku hanga e he Otua o fale’i mai ma’ aki tau tolu hono kotoa. Koe ha pe ha mahino oku tau ma’u ki he folofola ae Otua oku mahu’inga ke tau ilo oku i’ai ae me’a oku toe lahi ange ia ma’aki tautolu. Ke tau ilo ia, he fononga koeni oku tau fai.

Pastor Tom Choi

December 16—16th Day of Advent

Luke 1:45: Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.

Luke 1:45: Pea monū’ia ā ka ko ia na’e tuitala! Koe ‘uhi ‘e faka mo’oni ‘a e ngaahi me’a Na’e fakahā mei he ‘Eiki kiate ia.



December 17—17th Day of Advent

Luke 1:46-48 (The Message): And Mary said, I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me and look what happened—I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.

Imagine, being young, a virgin, engaged to be married soon and being told, by an angel, an angel, no less, that YOU are carrying God's child, a son, and that He would be the Son of the Most High and that He will be the Ruler of all and that His kingdom would never end.

Wait, what?! How can that be?! Who am I, a nobody, an unknown, an insignificant young girl, minding my own business? Why would God even notice me let alone choose me? Who would even believe me?

How would you react if that were you?

Luke says that Mary ponders what the angel told her and then said that her soul magnifies the Lord, and her spirit rejoices in God! She does not fully comprehend the magnitude of what was just told her by the angel. The words of the song, "Mary Did You Know," rings through my mind. Did she realize that the baby boy that she will soon deliver would one day deliver her?

But that's what God does, He takes the least of these and turns it into greatness. He notices us, even when no one else seems to, and certainly when we don't think God does, and does the miraculous!

This advent, let us take the focus off of ourselves – our problems, what others will think, and look to the miracle that Jesus is working in our lives. Rejoice and give glory to God that He would use you!

Becky Choi

Luke 1:46-48: Pea lea 'a Mele 'o pehē, 'Oku fakahīhiki'i 'e hoku loto 'a e 'Eiki. Pea neka hoku laumālie 'i he 'Otua ko hoku Fakamo'ui. He kuo ne āfeitalalo mai kia kīta me'a vale ko 'ene kaunanga: He faka'uta mai, ko e 'aho ni 'e kamata Ke lau au ko e monū'ia 'e he ngaahi to'utangata.

Tau ki'I fakakaukau loto ange, ko koe, koe fine mui, pea kuo ke ma'u 'ae faka hā, teke alo'I mai ha tamasi'I, pea koe tamasi'I ko ia, koe 'alo ia 'oe 'Otua. Koe 'Eiki 'oe ngaahi 'Eiki pea koe Tu'I 'o e ngaahi Tu'i.

Koe haaa? ‘E anga fefe? Ko hai āu, ‘a āu ta’e ‘iloa pea mo ma’u lalo? Koe ha ‘ae ‘uhinga ‘e fili ai au ‘e he ‘Otua? Ko hai ia ‘e tui mai kia au?

‘I he tohi ‘a Luke ‘oku hā ai, na’e fakakaukau’I lahi ‘e Mele ‘ae me’ani pea na’e fakahikihi ‘e he ‘Eiki ‘a hono loto. Na’e ‘ikai ke fu’u mahino ki a Mele ‘ae mafa tukituki ‘oe fekau na’e fakahoko ange ki ai ‘e he ‘āngelo he na’e hange koe taha ‘oe ngaahi hiva “Mele, ‘oku ke ‘Ilo’I nai”? Na’ne ‘ilo’I nai, koe ki’I tamasi’I ko ‘eni ‘e hoko ia koe toko taha tene fakatau’ataina’I ‘ae mamani.

Ka koe ‘ulungaanga pee ia ‘oe ‘Otua. ‘Oku ne hiki hake ‘ae mo’ulaloo ki he lelei taha. Na’ane ‘ilo’I ai ki taua, lolotonga ‘e tau ‘I he ta’e ‘iloa pea moe ‘I kai ke ‘I ai ha fakatu’amelia.

‘Ihe fa’ahi ta’u ko ‘eni ‘oe Etiveni, tau sio fakamama’u atu kia Sisu pea moe ngaahi tapuaki kuo tau ‘I nasi ai ‘e tau moui. Kau tuku ‘ae Kololia pea moe langilangi ki he ‘Otua.

Becky Choi

December 18—18th Day of Advent

Luke 1:66: Everyone who heard about it reflected on these events and asked, “What will this child turn out to be?” For the hand of the Lord was surely upon him in a special way.

I love to watch this video (“What Child Is This (Music Video)” <https://youtu.be/KggOIuA9vfs>) at Christmas time. It shows the love and wonder of Mary at the birth of her child. Did she know what great things He would do? Did she wonder and worry about what will he turn out to be even if she knew the hand of the Lord was upon him in a special way?

As a mother, I wondered these things too. Sara Mieko (“beautiful, blessed child” in Japanese) Maya (“love” in Nepali) Brekke was a miracle child. After going through all the medical avenues to have a child and failing, the doctor told us it was impossible to have a child naturally, but I believed God’s promise that He would give me the desire of my heart – to be a mom. Four months later, after much prayer from our Nepali ‘ohana, we conceived Sara – our miracle. Because of this, we knew she was special but I often wondered, “What will this child turn out to be?” Today, I am so humbled and grateful to be Sara’s mom. She is brave and bold about her faith. She has a soft heart for others, is smart, and she is using her gifting to point others to Jesus Christ. What more could a mother ask for?

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for blessing me with Sara, my heart’s desire! I commit her to you. Use her for Your glory. May her heart’s desire be to have an inti-

mate relationship with You and to share that love with others so they would know how much You love them just as You love her. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sandi Brekke



Luke 1:66: Pea ko kinautolu kotoa pē na'e fanongo ki ai, na'a nau fakama'u 'i honau loto, he'enau pehē, Tokaange ha me'a 'e hoko ki ai 'a e tamasi'i ni! Pea ne'ine'i ā, he na'e kau mo ia 'a e māfimafi 'o e 'Eiki.

'Oku ou manako ma'u pe keu sio 'I he ngaahi vitio ("What Child Is This (Music Video)" <https://youtu.be/KggOIuA9vfs>) 'I he fa'ahi ta'u Kilisimasi. 'Oku malava keu sio loto ai ki he 'ofa pea moe me'a fakaofa na'e hoko kia Mele 'I he 'alo'I mai 'ae ki'I tamasi'i. Na'ane 'ilo'I nai 'ae ngaahi ngaue lelei tene fai? Na'e 'I ai ha teteki 'I ate ia, koe tamasi'I 'oku 'I ai 'ene felave'I pea moe 'Otua.

'Oku 'I ai pe 'ae taimi lahi 'I he 'eku mo'ui, koe fa'e kita. 'Ihe vahā'a taimi 'o 'e ma nofo mali pea hili ha ngaahi ta'u lahi 'e ma lotu pea moe kole hā'a ma tama. Fakafokifā kuo foaki mai 'e he 'Eiki 'ae tama ki hoko manava ko Sara Mieko (faka'ofa'ofa, fonu tapuaki 'I he 'uhinga faka Siapani).

Koe 'ahoni, 'oku ou fiefia loto pe 'I he 'eku tama 'I he ngaahi ngaue lelei 'oku ne fai. 'Oku loto to'a kene tālaki 'ae ongoongo lelei ki hono ngaahi kaungame'a. Pea 'oku ne ngaue 'aki 'a hono taleniti ke tala 'aki 'ae langilangi 'oe 'Eiki pea kou lau tāpuaki ai 'I he ngaahi 'ahoni.

Lotu: Tamai 'oku 'I Hevani, fakamalo atu 'I hono tapuekina 'o Sara pea ko ia 'a hoku loto! 'Oku ou toe foaki atu ia ma'au ke ke me'a ngaue 'aki ia kef aka hoko ho ngaai ngaue 'I mamani pea ke langilangi 'ia ai pe 'ae 'Afiona. Emeni!

Sandi Brekke

December 19—19th Day of Advent

Luke 1:76: And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High: for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him.

As children of God, we are all called in different ways to use our talents for the Lord. At times, it can feel as though we have nothing to offer, as though our gifts are insignificant or unhelpful, but Psalm 139:14 tells us that God has fearfully and wonderfully made each of us, ensuring our worth, as God's works are perfect. Although we may not be actual prophets leading the way for God but joining others in ministry, we can spread His word and truth through our own God-given talents and by sharing our testimonies to others. In that way, we can prepare the way for the Lord every day of our lives.

Amalia Houff

Luke 1:76: Pea ko koe, tamasi'i, 'e lau ko e Palōfita 'o e 'Eiki Taupotu, He te ke fakamelomelo kiate ia ke teuteu hono ngaahi hala:

Ko ki tau tolu koe fanau 'ae 'Otua pea 'oku ui ki tau tolu 'I he ngaahi founga kehekehe ke tau ngaue 'aki ho tau taleniti ma'e 'Otua. 'Oku lahi 'ae taimi ia te tau ongo 'I ai 'oku 'I kai ke 'I ai ha'a tau me'a ke foaki ma'ae 'Otua pea hange 'oku 'ikai ke fu'u mahuinga 'ae me'a 'oku tau ma'u, ka 'oku fakamahino mai 'e he Saame 139:14 na'e ngaohi ki tau tolu 'e he 'Otua. Neongo 'oku 'ikai ko ha kau palofita ki tau tolu ke tau taki 'I heene ngaahi potungae, ka 'oku malava pe ke tau kau atu ki he 'ene ngaahi potungae. 'E malava ke tau talaki 'a ene ngaahi ongoongo lelei 'o ngaue 'aki 'ae ngaahi taleniti kuo ne 'omi ma'a tau tolu.

Amalia Houff

December 20—20th Day of Advent

1 John 1:5: This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.

God is light – what a comfort that is! Darkness can be such a scary place to be. In darkness we grope around, not sure where we are or where we are heading, not sure of what lies ahead or even what we passed. We stumble, we trip, we fall, and we get hurt. In darkness we are faced with uncertainty and the unknown, but God is light! He is the light at the end of the tunnel. He helps us to see and to find our way. In light we see truth, to see what is good, what is pure and what is of worth. Light gives us hope, light guides our way, light makes us feel secure.

May we seek His light and stay fixed on it. And may we find comfort and hope in the light of Christ. Amen.

Becky Choi

1 Sione 1:5: Ko eni ia ‘a e fekau na‘a mau fanongo meiate ia, ‘o tala kiate kimoutolu, ‘a ‘eni, Ko e ‘Otua ko e maama, pea ‘oku ‘ikai ha momo‘i fakapo‘uli ‘i he ‘Ene ‘Afi.

Maama ‘ae ‘Otua – Me‘a ongo fiemalie mo‘oni! ‘Oku kau ‘ae fakapo‘uli ‘I he potu fakailifia mo‘oni. ‘Ihe taimi ‘oku tau ‘I he fakapo‘uli ai, ‘oku tau taufā takai holo, ‘ikai ke tau ‘Ilo‘I ‘ae feitu‘u ‘oku tau hu‘u ki ai me taumu‘a ki ai ‘e tau fononga. Tau humu pea tau tō ki lalo pea tau lavelavea. ‘Ihe fakapo‘uli, ‘oku ta’e pau ‘ae fononga pea tau fehahangai ai pea moe ta’e’iloa. Ka koe maama ‘ae ‘Otua! Ko ia ‘ae maama ‘oku ulu mai me‘ihe ngata’anga ‘oe fakapo‘uli. Ko ia ‘oku ne tokoni‘I ki tau tolu ‘I he hala fononga. ‘Ihe maama ko ‘eni, ‘oku malava ke tau sio ‘o ‘ilo ‘ae mo‘oni, pea malava ke tau sio ki he ‘ene ngaahi lelei. ‘Ihe maama ko ‘eni ‘ae ‘Otua, ‘oku ne ‘omi ‘ae ‘amanaki lelei pea tau ongo‘I malu ‘I he taimi kotoa pe.

Tau fekumi mu‘a ki he ‘ene maama pea tau nofo ma‘u ki ai. Pea fakatauange ke tau ma‘u ai ‘ae nonga ‘I he maama ‘a Kalaisi. Emeni.

Becky Choi

December 21—21st Day of Advent

Matthew 1:20-21: But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Joseph was very worried and perplexed when the angel of the Lord appeared to him and clarified every single thing he was worried about. Here are the angel’s answers to the things he was worried about.

- Don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife.
- The child she conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- She will bear a son.
- You are to name him Jesus.
- He will save his people from their sins.

God helps us when we are troubled, worried, and afraid. Lift them up to God in prayers, and he will solve them all for us. He will give us peace in the midst of struggles and turmoil. The angel appeared to Joseph and told him to not be afraid of what will happen to Mary, that she will bear a son who will save all people from their sins. Always listen to God’s voice and have faith and obey where God leads. His love is more than a gift for the whole world.

Pastor Linita Moa

Matiu 1:20-21: Pea lolotonga ‘ene fifili ki he ngaahi me‘a ni, ‘iloange na‘e hā kiате ia ha ‘āngelo ‘a e ‘Eiki ‘i he misi, ‘o ne pehē, ‘E Siosifa, hako ‘o Tēvita, ‘oua na‘a ke teteki ke ‘omi ‘a Mele ko ho uaifi; he ko ia kuo ne tu‘itu‘ia ai ‘oku mei he Laumālie Mā‘oni‘oni. 21Pea te ne ‘alo‘i ha tama, pea te ke fakahingoa ko Sīsū; he ko ia ia te ne fakamo‘ui hono kakai mei he‘enau ngaahi angahala.

Ko e mo‘utafu‘ua ‘a Siosifa he misi kuo ne mamata mo e ongoongo ta‘e‘amanekina ko‘eni. Ka e ha mai ‘a e ‘angelo ‘o ne fakamahino kia Siosifa ‘a e me‘a ‘e hoko:

- ‘Oua e teteki (manavahe) ke hoko ‘a Mele ko hono uaifi
- Kuo tu‘itu‘ia ‘a Mele ‘oku mei he Laumalie Ma‘oni‘oni
- Te ne ‘alo‘i ha tamasi‘i.
- Fakahingoa ia ko Sisu.
- Sisu te ne fakamo‘ui hono kakai mei he‘enau ngaahi angahala.

‘Oku tokoni‘i kitautolu ‘e he ‘Otua he ngaahi me‘a ‘oku tau faingata‘a‘ia ai. Tekaki ki he ‘Otua he te ne vete ‘a e ngaahi faingata‘a kotoa pe. ‘Oku ne fakanonga ki he loto ‘oku hoha‘a mo puputu‘u. Ko e ha ‘a e ‘angelo ‘o fakahoko ‘a e fekau ‘a e ‘Otua kia Siosifa, ‘oku ne ‘amanaki ki ha tamasi‘i ‘e ‘alo‘i ‘e Mele, ‘e fakahingoa ko Sisu, ko e fakamo‘ui hono kakai mei he‘enau ngaahi angahala. Fakafeta‘i ko e ‘ofa ‘a e hulu ‘anoa ‘ene me‘a‘ofa ma‘a mamani katoa.

Pastor Linita Moa

December 22—22nd Day of Advent

Matthew 1:23: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel—which means “God with us.”

Jesus the Christ was born on this earth, and He was with us until his death. He went down to Hades for three days, and he rose from the dead and continue to be with us until he went up to Heaven to be with the Father. In His place the Holy Spirit will be our guide, teacher, comforter, companion until His return to be with us again!

Paini Harris

Matiu 1:23: “E feitama ha tāupo‘ou, pea te ne fā‘ele‘i ha tamasi‘i tangata. Pea ‘e fakahingoa ia ko ‘Imānuela, ko hono ‘uhingá, ‘Ko e ‘Otuá ‘oku ‘iate kitautolu’.”

Oku ‘iate kitautolu ‘a e ‘Otua. Na‘e ‘alo‘I ia ‘I mamani. Na‘a ne ‘I hotau lotolotonga he ngaahi ta‘u lahi pea ne pekia pe ‘i hotau lotolotonga. Na‘e ne toetu‘u he hili ‘a e ‘aho ‘e 3 pea ne ha‘ele ki langi ‘o ‘afio he nima to‘omata‘u ‘oe Tamai. Na‘a ne fekau ‘a Laumalie Ma‘oni‘oni ko hono fetongi, ko e takimu‘a, ko e faiako mo hota takaua, ko hota fakamo‘ulaloa, kae ‘oua leva ke ne to e ha‘ele mai. ‘Emeni.

Paini Harris

December 23—23rd Day of Advent

Luke 2:3-4: And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Like Joseph, I belong to the house and line of David. It's not something we talk about often, but my dad—a certain Mark Houff that sits in the same pew every Sunday—is actually David Houff, like his father before him. I definitely don't think of my dad or my grandfather as "David," and I'd venture to say that the majority of people reading this don't regularly consider their family members from a "house and line" perspective. Despite this, genealogy and family ties are still something many claim as a part of their identity and status; being connected to a family, one with a recognizable name or otherwise, offers a unique sense of belonging to anyone involved. I'd argue that this is one reason why so many people are interested in exploring their background further. After all, who doesn't want another chance to belong?

If you've ever found yourself without close family members, however, you've likely experienced the "differentiation" side of the "identification-differentiation" pair I've learned much about studying social science. When one's surrounded by people who identify strongly with something they can't claim, in this specific case family ties, it's not hard to begin feeling bitter, alienated, and full of envy for what others have. But, like so many of the verses in this collection have set out to do, I'm here to bring all of you good news, glad tidings, and great joy! As children of God, we are all members of the strong lineage of David, through Jesus and his earthly father, Joseph. While Luke 2:3-4 seems to be yet another genealogy-heavy set of verses that make scripture readers everywhere cower in fear, it offers those of us desperate for connection and belonging just that. All we have to do is claim our place on the branches of God's far-reaching family tree.

Ashleigh Houff

Luke 2:3-4: Pea na'e 'alu 'a e kakai kotoa pē, takitaha ki hono kolo 'o'ona ke tohi ai. Pea fononga hake mo Siosifa foki mei he kolo ko Nāsaleti 'i Kāleli, ko 'ene 'alu ki Siutea, ki he kolo 'o Tēvita, 'a ia 'oku hingoa ko Pēteliheima; (he na'a ne kau ki he hako mo e fa'ahinga 'o Tēvita)

Hange ko siosifa, oku kau kihe famili o Tevita. Mau fa'a lave pe ki ai, hange ko eku tamai "Mark Houff", oku ne ta'utu 'i he sea to mu'a oe api siasi he sapate kotoa pe, tatau tofu pe mo ene tamai "David Houff". Oku ikai keu fa'a faka kaukau oku tatau eku tamai mo ene Kui tangata, ka ihe taimi tatau pe oku lahi ae kakai oku ikai ke nau mahino'i ae mahu'inga ae "Fale pe koe "famili"oku te ha'u mei ai. Oku ne hanga o omai ae mo'oni koeni ke tau mahino'i, koe toko taha kotoa pe ne fakatupu oku kau ki he Fale pe famili pe neongo pe koe fale o hai, ka oku te ma'u ae mahino oku te "kau" pe oku te "ma'u" ae famili.

Kapau leva 'e faifaiange 'oku ke ongo'I 'oku 'ikai ha'o famili ofi, 'oku ngali 'uhinga pe ia ko ho'o ongo'I koe kehe koe 'I he taimi 'oku fai ai hano fakama'opo'opo 'o ha fa'ahinga pe ko ha faikehekehe'anga. Koe taimi ko ia 'oku tau 'I ha ha'oha'onga 'o ha kaikai pea 'oku nau tui kiha fa'ahinga me'a kā 'oku 'ikai malava ke nau ma'u, 'o hange koe ma'u famili, pea 'oku faingofua leva ki a ki nau tolu ke nau 'ita vave, mo'ui mamahi, loto meheka 'I he taimi lahi. Kae hange pe koe veesi folofola 'oe 'aho ko 'eni, 'oku ou ha'u mo au ha ongoongo lelei pea mo fakafiefia. Koe fanau ki tau tolu 'ae 'Otua, pea moe hako 'o Tevita 'o fou mai ia Sisu pea 'I he 'ene tama fakamamani ko Siosefa. Koe potu folofola ko 'eni 'a Luke 2:3-4 neongo 'ene hange ha tohi kakai ka 'oku ne fakahoko ki tau tolu ki he 'Otua. Koe me'a pe 'oku toe ke tau fai ko 'e tau kau atu koe va'a ki tau tolu 'oe famili 'o e 'Otua.

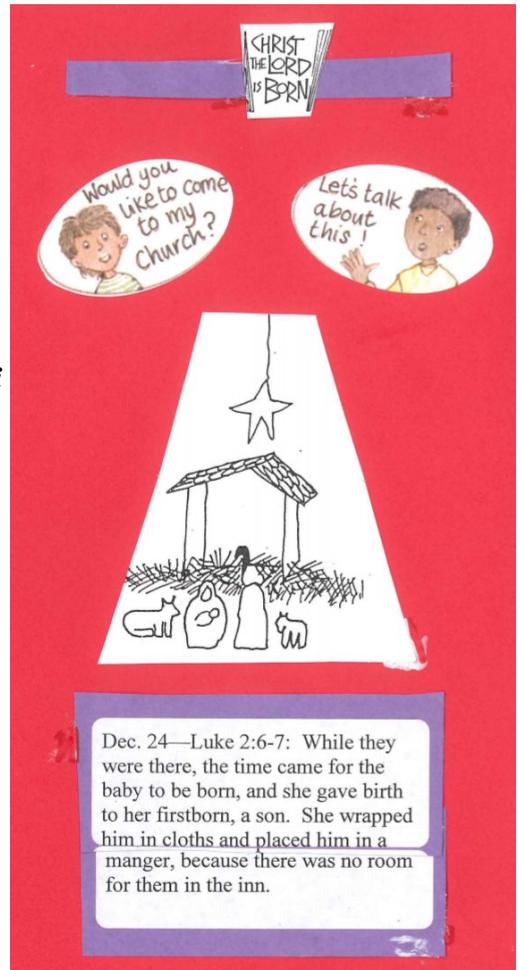
Ashleigh Houff

December 24—24th Day of Advent

Luke 2:6-7: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:6-7: Pea lolotonga 'ena 'i ai, na'e kato hono māhina ke fā'ele: 7pea na'a ne 'alo 'i 'a e tama, ko hono 'uluaki, 'o ne fakakofu 'aki ia 'a e kofu 'i tamasi 'i valevale, 'o ne fakatokoto 'i he 'ai'angakai 'o e manu: koe'uhi na'e 'ikai te na hao 'i he fale talifononga.

Carol Kesler



December 25—1st Day of Christmas

Luke 2:10: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

I was born November 17, 1962, and the first time that I recall hearing the Gospel was December 9, 1965. “A Charlie Brown Christmas” debuted and Linus put down his blanket and stopped me dead in my tracks by revealing the true meaning of Christmas by quoting the scripture above. Actually, to this day, my favorite Christmas decoration is the nativity scene because the shepherds gathered there. I still watch “A Charlie Brown Christmas” every year—at least a dozen of times with my children through the years, many times with my friends, sometimes all by my lonesome. I’m glad that Charles Schultz stood up to CBS and Coca Cola both of whom wanted that religious stuff cut for fear of upsetting people. Over the years the Coke plug ended up on the cutting room floor and ABC bought the rights to a Charlie Brown Christmas right out from under CBS. Both of these events probably give me a little more joy than they should. About the third time that I saw it I was a bit surprised and not exactly happy that it had been redone in color. I finally warmed to it after my mama explained to me that it was always color, it was our television that was black and white. That was the only time in my entire childhood that the thought that we may have been poor ever crossed my mind. Our gifts were never extravagant, but a lot of thought went into each of them. I am so blessed that the commercialism that plagued Charlie Brown never troubled Charlie Morton. On a quick and weird side note. I can’t get the vision of the angel delivering the good news to the shepherds looking and sounding exactly like Linus.

Charlie Morton

Luke 2:10: Pea pehē ‘e he ‘āngelo kiate kinautolu, ‘oua ‘e manavahē; he ko eni kuo u ha ‘u mo au ha talanoa mālie, ko e me ‘a fakafiefia ‘aupito, ko e me ‘a ma ‘a e kakai ‘Isileli kātoa.

Na’e fa’ele’I au ‘ihe ‘aho 17 ‘o Novema ‘oe 1962 pea koe fuofua taimi na’aku lava ai ‘o fanongo ki he ki he Kosipeli ‘I he ‘eku manatu koe ‘aho 9 ‘o Tisema 1965. Ko ‘eku fanongo ‘I he ki’I fo’I talanoa na’e ha’u ‘I he televisone pea na’e ‘iloa koe “A Charlie Brown Christmas” pea na’e talanoa’I ai ‘ae ‘uhinga ‘oe Kilisimasi pea na’e kau foki ai pea moe veesi folofola ‘oe ‘aho ko ‘eni. Talu mei ai ‘eku manako ‘I he ki’I fo’I faiva ko’eni ‘ou toutou mamata ai pea mo hoku kaunga me’a pea ‘I he taimi ‘oku ou ongo’I hopoate ai ‘eku mo’ui. ‘Oku ou fiefia foki koe ‘uhi ko e toko taha na’ane fa’u ‘ae fo’I faiva ko ‘eni, Charles Schultz, koe ‘I kai ke fakavaivai ki he ngaahi kautaha lalai ‘o hange ko Coca Cola pea moe kautaha televisone CBS ‘I he ‘e nau talanga ke tu’usi pea ‘o ua ‘e fakakau ‘ae veesi folofola pea moe talanoa ‘oe Kilisimasi ‘I he ‘ene polokalama. Na’e fai atu pe ‘o a’u ki ha taimi kuo hiki ai me’ihe CBS ‘o fatau ‘e he kautaha televisone ABC ‘ae polokalama ko ‘eni. Na’e a’u mai ki ha taimi, na’e na’aku ‘oho vale kuo toe

fa'u fo'ou 'ae fo'I faiva pea toe lanu foki 'ene 'asi 'I he televisone. Na'e fakahoko mai leva 'e he'eku fa'e, na'e fa'a kala pe ki'I faiva ia ka koe 'uhi ko 'e mau televisone na'e 'I kai ke lanu. Koe taimi pe ia 'e taha na'ku ongo'I masiva ai. Koe famili na'aku tupu ai na'e 'ikai ke fu'u loko ma'u ha me'a ka na'a mau fe'inasi'aki 'I he 'ofa. Ko hono faka'osi, 'oku sio loto atu 'I he taimi na'e fakahoko ai 'e'he angelo 'ae fekau ki he kau tauhi sipi 'I he le'o 'o Linus.

Charlie Morton

December 26—2nd Day of Christmas

Luke 2:17-18: When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

This means that when the followers of the Lord heard the “Good News” (as Pastor Tom has preached), they would not keep quiet. They decided to spread the word so others, followers and non-believers, would be aware and excited for Jesus' birth. When others find out, they were amazed and anxiously awaited to meet the Messiah. Although there was danger in spreading the word, they did it anyways in hopes of catching more people's attention.

We can apply this to our lives by not being afraid to spread the Good News. I sometimes feel afraid to express to others about my Lord and Savior, but the older I get, the more I start to share with others. I hope that we all continue to grow in faith and share about Jesus with believers and non-believers. I pray God guides us and gives us strength to do so.

Sara Brekke

Luke 2:17-18: Pea 'i he'enau mamata ki ai, na'a nau fai 'enau fakamatala ki he me'a na'e lea'aki kiate kinautolu, 'o kau ki he tama ni. 18Pea ko kinautolu na'e fanongo ai, na'a nau ofo kotoa pē 'i he ngaahi me'a na'e lea'aki 'e he kau tauhi sipi kiate kinautolu.

Koe veesi koeni oku ne fakamatala, ki he taimi ne fanongo ai e kakai kihe ongoongo lelei, pea ikai ke lava ke nau fakalongolongo. Na'a nau fie fia, pea nau lele o tala kihe kakai kotoa, kihe kau tui moe kau ta'e tui, neongo e lahi ae kakai na'a ikai ke nau mahi-no'i ae me'ani ka na'a nau fu'u fiefia ke sio pe mamata ki hotau Misaia. Ke oua te tau ilifia hono talaki ae ongongo lelei ae Otua. Lahi e taimi kuou ilifia ke talanoa fekau aki moe Otua ki he kakai, ka ihe alu ae taimi mo eku toe fakamatu'a tu'a ange kuou sa'ia keu faa lave ki a Sihova, he oku ou ilo'I ene ofa ki he etau mo'ui. Ofa ke tau tupu ihe tui moe kakai tui mo ta'e tui. Ke omi ehe Otua ha ivi moe malohi ke fai aki ae me'ani.

Sara Brekke

December 27—3rd Day of Christmas

Luke 2:19: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her head.

When Mary gave birth to Jesus, she must have had the same feelings other new mothers have after delivering a child, some of which are pride, love, and thankfulness. When the shepherds came to pay homage to the newborn, they told Mary about the angels visiting them and telling them to come see the Son of God. They were told that this child was the Messiah and this good news would bring great joy to all people. The angels praised God by saying “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

Mary must have begun to understand that her son, the Messiah, would take the throne of David and reign over Israel forever just as she had been told before the child’s conception. Perhaps she realized the many miracles he would perform. Did she realize the pain and suffering he would endure? Mary must have been thinking about the great responsibility she had in raising God’s son.

When things seem overwhelming in life, imagining the things that Mary pondered in her heart makes life’s concerns seem more manageable. We too have room in our hearts to rejoice and praise the Lord!

Trixie North

Luke 2:19: Ka ka kumuni kotoa pē ‘e Mele ‘a e ngaahi me‘a ni, ‘o ne fefilihaki ki ai ‘i hono loto.

‘Ihe taimi na’e fa’ele’I ai ‘e Mele ‘a e ki’I tamasi’I ko Sisu, ‘oku ou tui na’ane ma’u ‘ae ongo tātau moe si’I ngaahi fa’e kotoa pe. ‘I he taimi na’e a’u mai ai ‘ae kau tauhi sipi ken au hu pea mo punou ki he ki’I tamasi’I ko Sisu, na’a nau talanoa fiefia ‘I he fekau’I ki nau tolu ‘e he ‘angelo ke nau kumi ki he ‘alo ‘oe ‘Otua. Koe ‘ālo ‘oe ‘Otua kuo hoko mai, koe Misaia pea koe ongoongo lelei ki mamani kotoa. Pea koe Kololia ki langi tau-potu he koe melio ki māmāni ki he kakai kuo hoifua ki ai.

Mahalo pe na’e kamata ke mahino kia Mele, ko hono foha koe Misaia ia pea tene hoko ki he taloni ‘o Tevita pea hoko koe tu’I fakalevaleva ‘o hange ko ia na’e tala ki ai ‘I he taimi na’ane tu’itu’ia ai. Mahalo pe nā’ane ilo’I ‘ae ngaahi mana tene fai. Nā’ane ‘ilo’I nai’ae mamahi ‘e fou ai ‘ene moui? Mahalo pe na’e moua pe hono loto ‘I hono fakakaukau’I pe tene fefe’I hono tauhi ‘ae ‘ālo ‘oe ‘Otua.

Neongo koe vāa’i hala ‘oku tau fononga ai ‘I he mo’ui koe vāa’I hala ‘oku faingata’a, kaē ‘oua na’a ngalo ‘a Mele pea moe hala na’e fou mai ai. Ke tau fiefia ma’u pe ‘I he ‘Eiki.

Trixie North

December 28--4th Day of Christmas

Isaiah 9:6: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

This well-known Christmas scripture is one of my favorite scriptures in the bible. The verse “And the government shall be on his shoulders”, reassures me that I don’t have to carry the world’s burden on my shoulders. Yes, we live in a weary world and at times, we feel that need to carry its burdens on our shoulders. This scripture reminds us that God sent Jesus to help us to carry our burdens. In the Christmas carol, “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”, Scholar Alfred Edward Bailey wrote, “O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!”. So, during this Advent season, when we feel that we need to carry the burdens of the world on our shoulders, rest and hear the angels sing.

Helena Ogle

Aisea 9:6: He kuo ‘alo‘i mai ha Tama, Kuo tuku mai ha Foha: Pea ‘e ‘i hono uma ‘a e pule’anga. Pea ko e huafa ‘e ui’aki Ko Fakafo - ‘ene-fale’i, ko e Helo-‘Otua, Ko e Tamai Ta’engata, ko e ‘Eiki ‘o e Melino.

‘Oku kau foki ‘ae veesi folofola ko ‘e ni ‘I he veesi folofola maheni pea mo ha’a Kalisitiane. Kuo hoko ‘ae veesi folofola ko ‘e ni koe veesi folofola manakoa ‘I he taimi Kilisimasi. Koe kongā ko ia ‘oe veesi ‘oku pehe “Pea ‘e ‘I hono uma ‘a e pule’anga”, ‘oku hoko ia koe faka loto lahi kia au pea ‘oku mahino mai ‘oku ‘I kai ke toe fie ma’u ia keu fua ‘ae ngaahi mafasia ‘oe mamani. Io, ‘I he ngaahi ‘ahoni pea moe ngaahi taimi ‘oe lolotonga, taimi lahi ‘oku tau ongo’I ai ‘ae mafatukituki ‘oe halanga fononga. ‘Oku hanga ‘e he veesi folofola ko ‘eni ‘o fakamanatu mai, kuo tuku mai ‘e he ‘Otua ‘a hono ‘ālo tofu pe ‘e taha kene fua ‘e tau ngaahi mafasia kotoa pe. ‘I he taha ‘oe ngaahi fa’u malie ‘ae tangata Sikola ko ia ko ‘Alifeleti Edward Bailey ‘I he fo’I hiva ko ia koe “It come upon the Midnight Clear”, ‘oku pehe ‘e he taha ‘oe ngaahi veesi “O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!”. ‘I he fa’ahi ta’u ko ‘eni koe ‘Etiveni, manatu’I koe taimi pe ‘oku tau ongo’I fie ma’u ha tokoni, ki’I malolo hifo ‘o fanongo ki he vanavanaiki mai ‘ae hiva ‘a e kau ‘angelo.

Helena Ogle



December 29—5th Day of Christmas

John 1:14: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.

I really like this verse in the Message version of the Bible: “The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.” Doesn’t this paint a wonderful picture? I can just see Jesus, God in flesh and blood, moving into the house just down the street. That is exactly what happened. Jesus came to earth so that we could see the glory of God in someone who is just like us.

As I pondered this verse, I thought of what Jesus said in Matthew 25:31-45. Jesus responds to the disciples’ question of what will happen when he returns. He tells them that the Son of Man (Jesus) will be seated on a throne where he will separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep are the ones who have fed, housed, clothed, and visited him. They do not understand how they have done this for Jesus. He tells them that any time they have done such thing for anyone who is overlooked or ignored, then they have done that for him.

The same applies to us. Jesus is in our neighborhood. Whenever we do something for the hungry, housing challenged, the refugee, anyone who is considered less than others, then we have done that for Jesus. Look around your neighborhood. Do you see anyone who is considered less than others? Anyone homeless, hungry, thirsty, the object of discrimination? See the Jesus in that person and help them out.

Kim Houff

Sione 1:14: Pea na’e hoko ‘a Folofola ko e kakano; ‘o ne fokotu‘u hono tāpanekale ‘i hotau lotolotonga, pea na’a tau mamata ki hono Sikaina (ko ha lāngilangi na’e taau mo ha ‘alo-tofu-pē-taha kuo ha‘u mei he’ene tamai)—ta ‘oku ne fonu ‘i he kelesi mo e mo’oni.

‘Oku ou sai ‘ia ange au ‘I hono hiki ‘I he taha ‘oe ngaahi Tohi Tapu pāaki fo’ou: “Pea na’e hoko ‘a Folofola ko e kakano pea mo tōto, pea ne himi mai ‘o hoko ko ho tau kaunga’api. Na’a tau mamata tonu ki hono langilangi, koe taha ‘ona fa’ahinga langilangi, pea hange pea hoko pe ki he ‘ene tamai ‘o anga ‘ofa ‘I loto ki tu’a pea mo’oni mei me ‘ihe kamata’anga ki he ngata’anga..” ‘Oku ke pehe nai ko ha fo’I ‘atā faka’ofa’ofa ‘eni? ‘Oku ou sio loto atu au ki he ‘Otua ‘I he fotunga ‘oe kakano, ‘oku ne nofo mai pe ‘I he kolo pe hala tatau ‘oku tau nofo ai. Koe ‘uhinga e ia na’e hoko. Na’e ha’u ‘a Sisu ki mamani na’a lava ke tau matā tonu ‘ae kololia ‘oe ‘Otua ‘I teki tautolu.

‘I he ‘eku fakakaukau loto ki he veesi folofola ko ‘eni, ‘oku ou fakakaukau ai ‘I he hiki tohi ‘e Matiu 25:31-45 ‘I he tali ‘e Sisu ‘ae fehu’I ‘ae kau ako ‘o felave’I pea taimi ‘e toe foki mai ai. Na’a fakahā kia ki nau tolu ‘o pehe: pea ‘e fakakātoa ‘i hono ‘ao ‘ae ngaahi kakai kotoa pē: pea ‘e vahe ua ‘e ia ‘akinautolu, ‘o hangē ko e vahe‘i ‘e he tauhi sipi ‘a ‘ene sipi mei he kosi: Pea ‘e tuku ‘e ia ‘ae fanga sipi ki hono nima to‘omata‘u, ka ko e fanga kosi ki he to‘ohema. Pea ‘e toki pehē ‘e he Tu‘i kiate kinautolu ‘i hono nima to‘omata‘u, ‘Ha‘u, ‘akimoutolu kuo monū‘ia ‘i he‘eku Tamai, ‘o ma‘u ‘ae pule‘anga kuo teu mo‘omoutolu talu mei he kamata‘anga ‘o māmani: He na‘aku fiekaia, pea na‘a mou foaki ‘ae me‘akai kiate au: na‘aku fieinua, pea na‘a mou foaki ‘ae inu kiate au: ko e muli au, pea na‘a mou faka‘afe‘i au:

Koe me’a tatau pe ia ‘e hoko kia ki tautolu. ‘Oku ‘I ho tau ngaahi kaunga’api ‘a Sisu. Koe taimi pe ‘oku tau tokoni’I ai si’I kau tukuhausia, ‘ae masiva, fiekaia, li’ekina pea moe kau hupoate, ko ‘e tau fai ia kia Sisu. Ki’I siosio takai holo ‘I ho mou ngaahi kaunga’api. ‘Oku ke sio ki ha taha ‘oku ne fie ma’u ha tokoni? ‘Oku ke sio ki ha taha tukuhausia, fiekaia, li’ekinga? Sio loto kia Sisu pea ke laka atu ‘o tokoni’I ki nau tolu.

Kim Houff

December 30, 2015—6th Day of Christmas

Psalm 24:10: Who is the King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the king of glory!

December 30th is my earthly father’s birthday. He left us in 2018, but I was able to pray with him and spend quality time at his side. This in itself is a miracle and a reminder that God never gives up on us. God provides us grace sometimes through the angels that work in our lives. We see them in our rearview mirrors as the light reflects upon their glory.

My father experienced a lot of tragedy in his life. He lost his mother and four-year-old sister in a car accident when he was just fourteen. We lost my stepbrother in a car accident when he was 17. Then we lost my brother in another accident when he was 34. Shortly thereafter, my stepmother passed away from lung cancer. God continued to work in my dad’s life. A country preacher and brother to my stepmother, covered my daddy with prayers and invited him to attend church. The church family surrounded my dad and kept him fed both literally and spiritually. These angels continued to encourage my dad to attend church until he was saved and baptized in 2007. He continued attending church faithfully on Sundays and Wednesdays until he left us in 2018. My prayers had been answered after all those years. I was able to pray with my dad and know that he will be waiting for me in heaven. The LORD Almighty worked through all of these people – He is the king of glory!

Dawn Dobbs

Saame 24:10: Ko hai ia koā ‘a e Tu‘i Lāngilangi. Ko Sihova Sāpaoti, Ko ia ia ‘a e Tu‘i Lāngilangi.

Ko Tisema ‘aho 30 koe ‘aho fa’elei ia ‘o ‘eku tamai ‘I mamani. Na’ane hiki atu mei mamani ‘I he 2018 kā na’aku malava ‘o ma’u taimi pea mo faingamalie ke fai ‘e ma lotu. Na’e hoko foki ‘ae ki’I taimi ko ia koe fakamanatu kia au ‘ae ‘ofa ‘ae ‘Otua ma’aki tau tolu. ‘Oku ne foaki mai ‘a ‘ene kelesi ‘I he ngaahi founga kehekehe ‘I he ‘e tau moui. Pea malava ai ke tau matā ‘a hono ngaahi koloia.

Koe halanga faingata’a na’e fou mai ai ‘eku tamai ‘I he ‘ene mo’ui. Na’e mole ‘ene fa’e lolotonga ‘oku ne ta’u 17 ‘I ha ekisiteni pea malōlō ai pea mo hono ki’I tuofefine si’I si’I lolotonga ‘oku ta’u fā. Na’e toe mole foki pea moe mo’ui ‘a hoku tehina lolotonga ‘oku ta’u 17 kihe ekisiteni. Pea toe mole mo hoku tehina ‘I he ‘ene ta’u 34 pea taimi si’I pe ia kuo toe malōlō pea moe taha ‘o ‘eku fa’e ki he kanisā.

‘Ihe taimi ko ‘eni na’e hanga ‘e he ‘Otua ‘o liliu ‘ae mo’ui ‘o ‘eku tamai. Na’e hanga ‘ehe kau tangata malanga ‘I he kolo ‘o lotu’I ‘eku tamai pea nau fakaafe’I ia ki he lotu. Na’e hanga ‘e he ngaahi famili ‘o e siasi ‘o ‘ofa’I eku tamai pea nau fafanga ia ‘aki ‘ae me’a tokoni fakasion pea moe me’a kai fakalaumalie. Na’a nau fakalotolahi’I foki ia ‘o hoko ai ki hono papi ia ‘I he siasi ‘I he 2007. Na’ane ma’u ‘ae ngaahi ma’u’anga kelesi kotoa pe ‘I he ‘aho Pulelulu pea moe ‘aho Sapate ‘o a’u pe ki he ‘ene hiki atu ‘I he 2018. Na’aku matu’aki ongo’I mo’oni ‘ae tali ‘a ‘eku lotu. Na’e malava ke ma lotu fakataha pea ‘oku ou ‘ilo’I fakapapau, tene talitali mai kia au ‘I hevani. Io, ko hai ‘ae Tu‘i ni ‘oe nāunau? Ko Sihova ‘oe ngaahi kautau,ko ia ia ko e Tu‘i ‘oe nāunau. Koloia ki he tu’o ‘o langi taupotu!

Dawn Dobbs

December 31—7th Day of Christmas

Psalms 98:1: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

I picked a song to highlight what the psalmist said, however, it is not a new song. In fact, we sing it every Sunday during the English service, to bless the Sunday offerings. We sing it in the Tongan service on special offering Sundays, or any other Sunday as a hymn.

UMH #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures, here below,
Praise Him, above ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

These words may have been written by Thomas Ken centuries ago, but it rings new and true every Sunday, as we say thank you to God, for all the “marvelous things” He has done for us. May we be reminded as we move into the New Year, to not wait until one writes a new song, but that every chance we have, just sing an old song with a thankful heart to God. We can be sure that God is listening, and still caring for all His children. A blessed Advent to all!

Tupou Seini Kelemeneni

Saame 98:1: Hiva kia Sihova ‘aki ‘a e hiva fo’ou ē; He ko e koto fakaofo ‘ene ngāue; Ko hono to‘ukupu to‘omata‘u mo hono nima tāpuhā, Kuo ne ma‘u ‘a e fakamo‘ui ma‘ana.

Na’aku fili ‘ae fo’I hiva ko ‘eni ke poupou ki he Saame ‘oe ‘ahoni, kā ‘oku ‘I kai foki ko ha fo’I hiva fo’ou ia. Ko hono mo’oni, ‘oku tau hiva ‘aki ‘ae fo’I hiva ko ‘eni ‘I he Sapate kotoa pe ‘I he malanga ‘ae kau Papalangi ‘I hono tāpuaki’I ‘oe lī me’a ‘ofa ‘oe Sapate. Pea tau toe hiva ‘aki pe ‘I he malanga ‘ae kau Tonga ‘I he taimi lī pa’anga pea iha fa’ahinga Sapate pe he koe himi.

HIMI # 460

Tau kau ke fakamalo’ia

‘A e Tamai, ‘Alo, Laumalie

Kau ‘a e kakai ‘o langi na

Kau mo mamani fulipe.

Neongo koe ngaahi kupukupu’I lea ko ‘eni na’e hiki ia ‘e Thomas Ken ‘I he ngaahi senituli kuo maliu atu ka ‘oku kei vanavaniki mai pe ‘I he Sapate kotoa ‘o hange ‘oku fo’ou ‘I he taimi ‘oku tau hiva ai ‘o fakamalo ki he ‘Otua he kuo fai ‘ee ia ‘ae ngaahi me’a fakaofo ma’aki tautolu. ‘I he ‘amanaki ke tau tu’uta ki he ta’u fo’ouna, ‘oua mu’a na’ake mo’u talia ki ha taha ke fa’u hā fo’I hiva fo’ou ke fai ‘aki ho’o hiva, hiva pe ‘I he fo’I hiva motu’a kae fai ‘aki ‘ae lotu fakafeta’I pea mo hangamalie ‘I ho’o ma’u ‘ae faingamalie pea ‘I he taimi kotoa pe. He ‘oku tau ‘ilo fakapapau ‘oku fanongo mai ‘ae ‘Otua ki he ‘ene fanau. Ke fai tapuekina ki mou tolu ‘I he fa’ahi ta’u ‘Etiveni ko ‘eni.

Tupou Seini Kelemeneni





January 1, 2016—8th Day of Christmas

Matthew 2:1-2: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

These verses tell us that three humble Magi or wise men, from the east came to Jerusalem asking where they could find the new born king of the Jews, for they had seen His star rising and were on their way to worship Him. From here we learned how Herod questioned the magi and how they replied that they had interpreted the rising of the star to mean that was prophesy and was being fulfilled. The meaning in all of this is Jesus is the Messiah and our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Marine Anien

Matiu 2:1-2: PEA hili ‘a e ‘alo‘i ‘o Sīsū ‘i PēteliHEMA ‘i Siutea, ‘i he kuonga ‘o e tu‘i ko Hēlota, ‘iloange na‘e hoko ki Selusalema ‘ani Maki mei Hahake, ‘oku nau fehu‘i, Kofa‘ā ia kuo ‘alo‘i ko e Tu‘i ‘o e kakai Siu? he na‘a mau mamata ‘i Hahake ki hono fetu‘u pea kuo mau omi ke hū kiate ia.

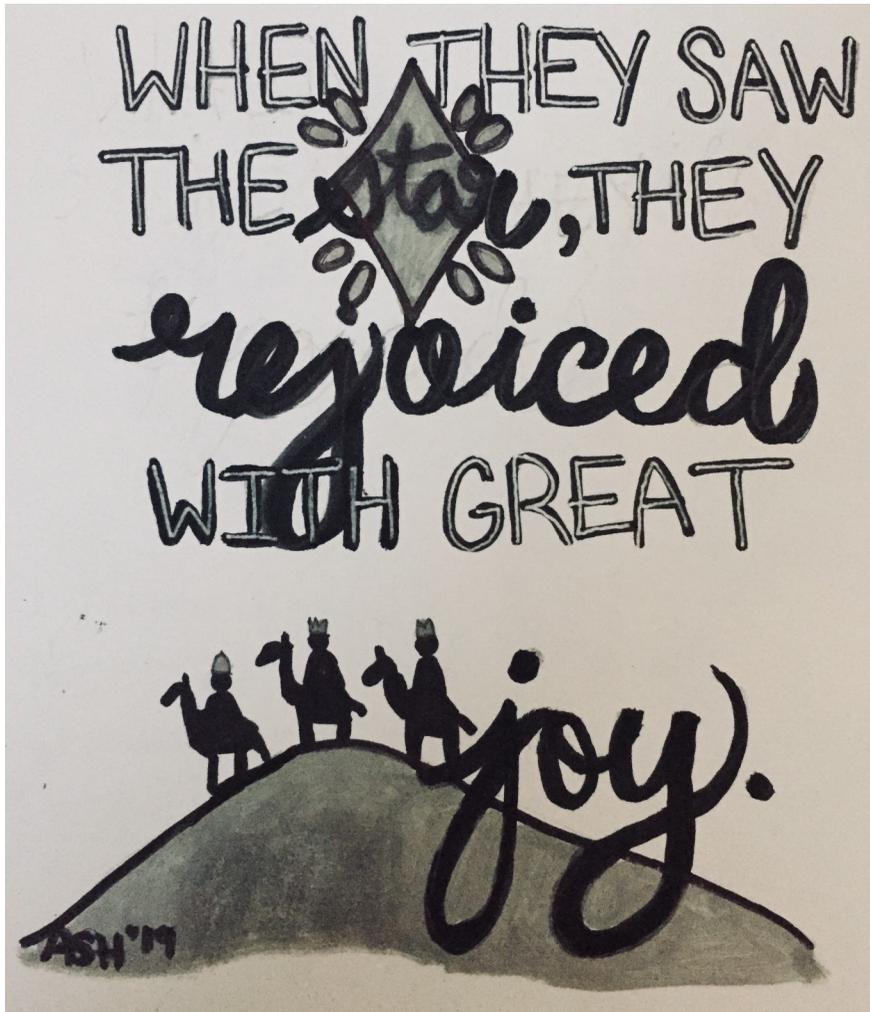
‘Oku hanga ‘ehe veesi folofola ‘oe ‘ahoni ‘o tala ‘ae ‘ulungaanga fakatōkilalo ‘oe kau Maki pe koe kau tangata poto mei he ptou hahake ki Selusalema. Na’a nau fekumi mai ki he Tu‘I ‘oe kau Siu ke tau hū kiate ia. Tau ako mei heni ‘ae tali fehu‘I ‘ae kau maki ‘I he taimi na’e fakafehu‘I ai ‘e Helota ki nau tolu ‘o nau pehe kotoa pe, koe toko taha‘n‘I na’e ‘osi palofisai pe ia talu mei mu’a. Ko Sisu koe Misaia ia pea mo ho tau ‘Eiki fakamo’ui. Emeni.

Marine Anien

January 2—9th Day of Christmas

Matthew 2:10-11: When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Matiu 2:10-11: Pea 'i he'enau sio ki he fetu'u, na'a nau fiefia 'aupito, 'aupito. Pea 'i he'enau hū ki he fale, na'a nau 'ilo 'a e tamasi'i, 'oku 'i he'ene fa'ē ko Mele; pea nau fakatōmape'e 'o hū kiate ia: pea na'a nau tangaki 'enau ngaahi 'angame'a, 'o nau 'atu kiate ia 'a e ngaahi me'a'ofa, ko e koula mo e laipeno mo e mula.



Ashleigh Houff

January 3—10th Day of Christmas

Matthew 2:13: When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

Do you ever get such specific instructions through visions or dreams? It is unusual for me to even remember a nighttime dream much less carry out instructions from one. In this verse, and the one immediately preceding it, Joseph and the Magi are given specific instructions in visions or from the angel of the Lord to avoid Herod. Both men or groups of men are obedient to those directions. In Joseph's case, he had a bunch of encounters with angels connected to Jesus--making it as typical for him as it probably is unusual for us. Why? Are we not as attuned to the visions? God using different methods? Nothing important to say? I am not sure why, but hopefully it will spark some thoughts from us, and I pray that we will listen and see the messages God has for us whatever the method of receipt!

Mark Houff

Matiu 2:13: Pea kuo nau ‘alu, ‘iloange, na’e hā kia Siosifa ha ‘āngelo ‘a e ‘Eiki ‘i ha misi, ‘o ne pehē, ‘Ā hake, ‘o to’o ‘a e tamasi’i mo ‘ene fa’ē, pea ke holataki ki ‘Isipite; pea ke nofo ai kae’oua ke u toki fakahā atu; he ‘oku teu kumi ‘e Hēlota ‘a e tamasi’i ke fakapoongi

‘Oku ‘I ai nai hā taimi kuo ke ma’u ai hā ngaahi fekau ‘o faka fou mai ‘I ha’o mohe misi pe ko ha’o visone? ‘Oku taitai taha pe ke hoko ha me’a pehe kia au pea ‘oku toe kovi ange, he ‘oku ‘ikai teu fa’a lava ‘o manatu’I lelei pe koe hā koa ‘ae fekau na’e ha mai ‘I he ‘eku misi. ‘I he veesi folofola ko ‘eni pea pehe pe ki he veesi ki mu’a ai, ‘oku ha ai ‘ae ngaahi fekau me’ihe ‘Otua ‘o faka fou mai ‘I he kau ‘angelo kia Sosefa moe kau maki ‘o faka fou mai ‘I he kau ‘I he visone ke nau hola ‘o mama’o me ia Helota. Na’e fai talangofua ‘ae kau tangata ki he fekau ko ‘eni. Na’e lahi ‘au ‘ae misi pea moe visone ‘a Siosefa ‘o felave’I pea mo Sisu pea hange ia koha me’a na’e anga ki ai, kā kia ki taua koe me’a ‘oku ha ha molofia. Koe ha nai? ‘Oku ‘ikai naik e tau anga ki he visone? ‘Oku ne ngaue ‘aki nai ha founga kehe ia me ‘ihe founga na’a na’ane ngaue ‘aki ki mu’a? ‘Ikai ke ‘I ai ha me’a mahu’inga ke faka hā mai? ‘Oku ‘ikai teu fu’u ‘ilo’I ‘ae ‘uhinga, ka ‘oku ou faka’amu ange ‘e lava ke tau fakakaukau pea ke tau lotu pea ke tau fakaongo fakalelei koe ha nai ‘ae fekau kia ki taua me’ihe ‘Otua.

Mark Houff

January 4—11th Day of Christmas

Matthew 2:16: *When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.*

Yesterday, we read about Joseph being told in a dream to take his family to Egypt because Herod was going to kill the child. Today, our scripture lesson tells us that Joseph's dream was fulfilled. Herod gave a decree for all boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under to be killed. That means that Jesus and his parents were refugees who were fleeing certain death. The program for December for United Methodist Women includes this picture of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus portrayed as refugees today.

Prayer: God, we pray that we will be able to see the face of the holy family in the faces of refugees today. Amen.

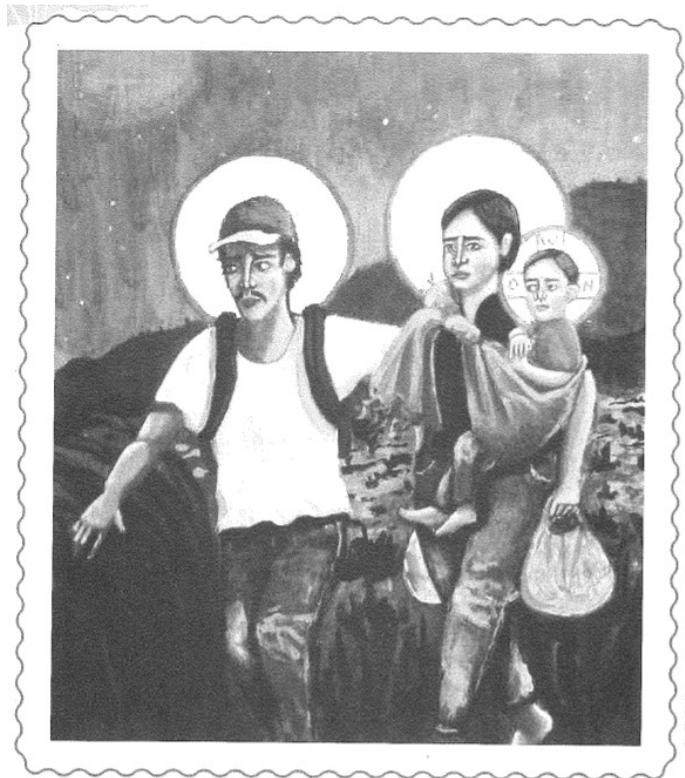
Kim Houff

Matiu 2:16: *Pea 'i he toki hā kia Hēlota kuo va'inga'aki ia 'e he kau Maki, na'a ne tuputāmaki 'aupito; 'o ne fekau ke tāmāte'i 'a e tamaiki kotoa pē 'i Pēteliheima mo e ngaahi 'api na'e kau ki ai, 'o ngata meiate kinautolu na'e ua ta'u 'o fai ki mui; 'o fakatatau ki he taimi na'a ne ma'u mei he kau Maki.*

Aneafi ne mau lave kihe misi a siosifa a ia na'e pehe, ke ave ene famili ki isipite, he hanga e he tu'i o tamate'i ae foha. He ahoni oku mau lau ae talanoa ko eni o 'ilo'i nae fakakato ehe Otua ae misi. Na'e folofola ehe tu'i ko helota ke tamate'i ae pepe tamasii kotoa pe, a ia na'e kau ki ai a siosifa mo mele e na mavahe mei peteliheima.

Lotu: E Otua ke mau sio mata ki he fofonga oe kakai hahao ki mu'a.

Kim Houff



"Refugees La Sagrada Familia" by Kelly Latimore

January 5—12th Day of Christmas

Matthew 2:21-23: So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets. “He will be called a Nazarene.”

January 5, 1945 was the date of my parents’ wedding. Today would have been their 75th or diamond anniversary. In reading of Joseph’s fear of a tyrannical government in today’s scripture passage, I recall the fear and hardship my parents went through almost immediately after their wedding. In December of that year, Communist soldiers ransacked their home, confiscating any Christian or theological books (my father was a pastor and my mother went to seminary). They resolved to leave their home in what is now North Korea, leaving behind family and friends. My father and his brother stowed away on a fishing boat to the south, while my mother and infant sister had to make the trip on foot. Eventually, they made their way to the United States: my father first in 1947, and my mother and – by that time – two sisters in 1956. The one constant: the one known as the Nazarene, Jesus the Christ, was always with them and would always be.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for being with us at all times. We pray for all of those who are escaping persecution and also pray for openness and welcome from nations who can receive them. Through Jesus the Nazarene. Amen.

Pastor Tom Choi

Matiu 2:21-23: Pea ‘ā hake ia, ‘o ne to‘o ‘a e tamasi‘i mo ‘ene fa‘ē, pea ne ‘alu atu ‘o hū ki he fonua ‘o ‘Isileli. Ka ‘i he‘ene fanongo ko ‘Akileosi ‘oku pule ‘i Siutea, ko e fetongi ‘o ‘ene tamai ko Hēlota, na‘a ne manavahē ke ‘alu ki he potu ko ia: pea na‘e valokia ia ‘i ha misi, ko ia na‘a ne fononga ki he ngaahi feitu‘u ‘o Kāleli. Pea ne ‘alu ‘o nofo ‘i he kolo ‘oku hingoa ko Nāsaleti; koe‘uhi ke fakamo‘oni ki he me‘a na‘e lea‘aki ‘e he kau Palōfita, ‘o pehē, ‘E ui ia ko ha Nāsaleti.

Sanuali 5, 1945 koe aho mali ‘ia eku ongo matu’a. He ‘ahoni e lava ai e ta’u e 75 a ena nofo mali. He eku lau ae talanoa o siosifa, oku mahino ki te au ene ongo’i ta’e malu’i, kuou manatu, kihe taimi na’e mali ai eku ongo matu’a, koe taimi faingata’a lahi ia, ki he emau ki’i famili. ‘I tisema pe oe ta’u ko ia, na’e ha’u e kau sotia oe fonua o ave pe to’o ae me’a faka Otua kotoa pe nae tauhi ihe nofoanga, na’e Faifekau foki eku tamai pea, kalasi aho eku fa’e, pea na alea leva ke fai ha hiki, mei he fonua ko North Korea ki amelika lahi. Na’e alu eku tamai mo eku fa’etangata he vaka, kae lue lalo pe eku fa’e mo eku tuofefine. I ai ha taimi,kuo mau a’u mai ki amelika lahi muomu’a mai eku tamai he 1947 pea toki a’u mai eku fa’e mo eku tuofefine he 1956. Koe toko taha na’e

iloa koe sisu o nasaleti ko ia na'ane fononga mo nautolu.

Lotu: E Otua, malo ho'o kei nofo'ia ihe emau mo'ui ihe taimi kotoa pe. Oku mau lotu ma'ae kakai oku nau fou he mamahi koe 'uhi ko enau tui kihe Otua, faka ava ae ngaahi mata pa ke tau lava o talitali e kakai oku nau ma'u a Sisu o nasaleti. Emeni.

Pastor Tom Choi

January 6—Epiphany

Psalm 96:1: Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth!

“King” by Beckah Shae is my new favorite song (<https://youtu.be/Tz53TywO5qA>). The lyrics in the song include these words: “Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha Olam” which means “Blessed are you O Lord our God, King of the Universe”.

As you read this, our LemonAid for Love team (except for Ashleigh who will be headed to Europe) will either have arrived home from our mission trip to Nepal or we are on our way home. I'm sure that each one of our hearts will have been touched and changed for the better. We will have had “plot twists” that for some of us were huge defining moments and for others were “aha!” moments. Whichever one we experienced, I know for sure that each one of us is singing “Blessed are you O Lord our God, King of the Universe” because God our King has opened our eyes to see those who are blinded by the tricks of the enemy, opened our ears to hear the cries of the hurting, and broken our hearts for those who are being persecuted. Thank you, dear church, for your fervent prayers as we embarked on this God-venture! We certainly felt them and it was a comfort to know so many were interceding on our behalf.

Please do not hesitate to ask any of us on the mission team about our experiences as we hope that through our testimonies, you too will be blessed by our great God and King. I also encourage you to take the time to listen to the song “King” by Beckah Shae and let it minister to you.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for walking beside the LemonAid for Love team and our supporters every step of the way on this mission trip. May our hearts and lives be forever changed by what you revealed to us. In this new year, may our new song be “Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha Olam” - “Blessed are you O Lord our God, King of the Universe”.

Sandi Brekke

Saame 96:1: HIVA kia Sihova ‘aki ‘a e hiva fo’ou Hiva kia Sihova, ‘a māmani kotoa.

“King” by Becah Shae (<https://youtu.be/Tz53TywO5qA>) oku hoko eni koe hiva kuou manako aupito ki ai ko hono ‘uhinga oku ne fa’u ae hiva ni aki e ‘u hingoa ko Adonai elohimi a ia oku ‘uhinga “Fakafeta’i kia Sihova ko hoku Otua, Tu’i o mamani kotoa”

Ko emau timi “LemonAid for Love” te mau osi tau mai ki hawaii’ni mei he emau folau misiona ki Nepal, kuou ilo na’e hoko ae folau koeni koe me’a ke ne ala si emau mou’I ke fai ha fetongi ki ha mou’i oku toe lelei ange. Lahi aki mautolu na’e kau he folau, oku mau ongo’i ae ofa moe tataki ae Otua, ke mau hiva o Kalanga “Fakafetai ki a Sihova ko hoku Otua, Tu’i o mamani kotoa” he oku mau sio, pea mau fanongo, pea mau vakai kihe kakai oku fou he mamahi pe ikai ke toe ilo ha founga ke ma’u mai ha tokoni. Oku mau Faka malo lahi aupito atu Ki he Siasi ihe foaki moe tokoni pea tautefito ki ho’o mou lotu oku fai mai, oku mai ongo’i ae fiemalie ke fai ae ngaueni.

Ka oku iai ha me’a oku mou fie ilo ki ai fekau aki moe folau ki Nepal, oku ata pe ke eke mai ke tau lave ki ai, oku mau ilo e hoko ae misiona koe ni koe talaloto e lava o alasi e kakai toko lahi, he oku lahi mo lelei a hotau Otua. Kapau oku iai ha ‘o taimi, kataki o fanongo ki he hiva ni o faka ata ho’o loto ke tataki he’e laumalie.

E hoku Otua

Oku mau Fakamalo atu, ‘i ho’o folau fakataha moe timi “LemonAid for Love” pea moe tataki kuo ke fai ihe momeniti kotoa pe. Ke hoko ae misione ko eni koe me’a ke ne fakafetongi hotau loto ke tau ma’u ha ofa mo’oni ki ho tau Otua ihe ene mana moe tali lotu oku fai. ‘I he ta’u fo’ouni ke tau hiva ae hiva fo’ou pea ke tau hiva o pehe “Fakafeta’i kia Sihova ko hoku Otua, Tu’i o mamani kotoa”.

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