



KE AHIAHI KALIKIMAKA THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS

Devotional for December 24, 2015
Pilina -- Relationship

“Ke Akua Pū Me Kākou” – God with Us
By KS Maui Kahu Kalani Wong

Heluhelu Baibala / Scripture Reading

Matthew (Makaio) 1:18-23

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

¹⁸ Penei ho’i ka hānau ‘ana o Iesū Kristo: I ho’opalau ‘ē ‘ia kona makuwahine ‘o Maria na Iosepa, ‘a’ole na’e lāua i pili, a ‘ikea ‘o ia, ua hāpai na ka ‘Uhane Hemolele. ¹⁹ Akā, he kanaka pono kāna kāne ‘o Iosepa, ‘a’ole ia i makemake e hō’ino iā ia ma ke ākea; mana’o ihola ia e kipaku malū iā ia.

²⁰ A i kona no’ono’o ‘ana ma ia mau mea, aia ho’i, ‘ike ‘ia aku ka ‘ānela a ka Haku e ia ma ka moe, ‘ī maila, E Iosepa, e ka mamo a Dāvida, mai maka’u ‘oe ke lawe iā Maria i wahine nāu; no ka mea, ua hāpai ‘o ia na ka ‘Uhane Hemolele. ²¹ A e hānau mai ‘o ia i keiki kāne, a e kapa aku ‘oe i kona inoa ‘o IESŪ; no ka mea, e ho’ōla ia i kona po’e kānaka mai ko lākou hewa.

²² Ma ia mau mea i kō ai ka mea a ka Haku i ‘ōlelo mai ai ma ke kāula, i ka ‘ī ‘ana mai, ²³ Aia ho’i, e hāpai ana kekahi wahine pu’upa’a, a e hānau mai ia i keiki kāne, a e kapa ‘ia kona inoa ‘o ‘EMANUELA; ‘o ke ‘ano kēia, ‘o ke Akua me kākou.

Mana'o / Thoughts

Years ago, respected kūpuna Edith Kanaka'ole, was captured on film recounting the traditional mo'olelo of Hāloa, the son of Ho'ohōkūkalani and Wākea, to her mo'opuna (grandchildren). She explained the origin of the word 'ohana and its "roots" in the word 'ōhā, the offshoots of the kalo (corm). While recounting this mo'olelo, Auntie Edith also impressed upon her mo'opuna the importance of knowing one's genealogy and wahi pana (storied places) connected to their family.

We might recall that 'ōiwi Hawai'i (Native Hawaiian) people originate from Hāloa – their progenitor or ancestor. In this mo'olelo of Hāloa, the first Hawaiian man, Hāloa's elder brother, Hāloanakalaukapalili was still born (alualu). Where he was buried, a new plant originated and became the kalo which fed and provided sustenance for his younger brother.

Thus, it is believed that Hawaiian people have a direct pilina (relationship) to the kalo as its 'ōhā – offshoots. This captures the essence of the Hawaiian people where pilina, or relationships, are the core (or perhaps "corm") of who they are. We love to be with 'ohana. When a family member is down, we are there to pick them up. When a loved one needs to be set straight, 'ohana is there to do so and provide the support to keep that person headed in the right direction.

In the Hawaiian home, Ke Akua is a very key part of that 'ohana. I've spoken to a number of kūpuna who told stories of how they would have 'ohana time to end their day. As a family, they would gather to sing hīmeni, share a verse or two, and tell a story of how Ke Akua was a part of their day. I have not heard of any family who still keep to that practice on a regular basis like before. What happened for that pilina to have dwindled?

When the prophet Isaiah foretold, "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel," it was to a people who were living in fear of being overrun by two very powerful kingdoms. Was God going to be there for them? This prophecy was one of hope, that they would be spared and God would be in their midst.

When it came to fulfillment in the birth of Jesus, people had a chance to see God was with them in human form. But the thing is, God never left the people. God was always there. It was the closeness of the relationship that was lost. I heard a saying once, "When you feel far from God, turn around and you'll see that he's been with you all along." We're the ones who have turned our backs to God. God said that he would never leave us nor forsake us.

This Christmas, take the time to see Immanuel – God IS with us, and renew your pilina with Ke Akua through Iesū Kristo his son. Let him into your life full-time, walking alongside of him day by day, reflecting on his presence in your life and sharing those times with your 'ohana. Encourage them to take that step of faith so our earthly 'ohana will be our heavenly 'ohana as well, for remember, 'ohana is the core (corm) of who we are – our sense of identity, sense of place – and the assurance that Ke Akua, like our ancestors, is always with us and within us.

Pule / Prayer

Mahalo ke Akua for your loving steadfastness, for always being present in our lives. Forgive us for the times that we think you have forgotten us. Enable us to see your hand at work in our lives daily. Strengthen our pilina with you and our 'ohana. Haleluia i Ke Akua i kona makana, iā Iesu Kristo, Hallelujah to Ke Akua for his gift, Jesus Christ. Ma ka inoa o Iesū Kristo, `Āmene.

Hīmeni / Hymn

Hallelujah is used to express praise, joy, or thanks especially to God. The Kamehameha Schools Maui Hawaiian Ensemble sings Kuana Torres Kahele's version of a modern classic, "Hallelujah" rewritten to celebrate the birth of our savior.

HALELUIA

Kuana Torres Kahele

Based off of Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen's original tune, "*Hallelujah*". The words were later changed and translated in to Hawaiian by Kahele. Giving honor and praise to the Lord Jesus.

Eia nō 'o haku ē
Hānau hou mai ka lani ē
E ho'onani a'e nō kākou
'O nei 'o Kristo kō kākou ho'ōla ē
Ka makua lani kō ke ao

Here is the newborn
King from heaven
Let us sing praises!
This is Christ our savior
The heavenly father of the world

Hui

Haleluia, Haleluia
Haleluia, Haleluia

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

E hele mai kākou ē
A 'ike i ka mō'ī kane
Hānau hou a'o Betlehema
He nani ka hua a ka Virgin Mary, nani nō
Ka makua maoli kō ke ao

Come all and see
The newborn king
Of Bethlehem
So beautiful is the child of the Virgin Mary, beautiful indeed
True god of the world

Hosana, hosana mau
Aloha a'e kō luna ao
I ke ali'i nani o Iehova
E Mililani aku i ka haku o nā haku ē
Ā halelū nā 'ānela nona

Praise, praise forever
Give praise to the heavens
To the beautiful King Jehovah
(We) exalt the King of Kings
And the angels sing Psalms for him

'O Iesu ka Mesia
E hi'ilani uku iā ia
Ma ka lā Sabati, haleluia
Ho'onani i ka Makua lani o nā lani i luna
Ka ho'ōla kō ke ao

Jesus is Christ
Let us worship him
On the Sabbath day, Hallelujah
Praise the father of the highest heavens
(Our) savior, the King