



## SERVING OTHERS WITH JOY AND GENEROSITY

FROM THE YOUVERSION READING PLAN "THE GENEROUS ENTREPRENEUR" BY KIM AVERY

Resources are scarce.

I think we all feel that to some extent. Each day, I'm keenly aware that I only have a limited supply of energy, money, knowledge, and time. Thus, as a business owner, I'm tempted to hold and hoard these resources closely because once they are gone . . . they are gone, never to return again.

Or are they?

Living in this fallen world, our natural tendency is to believe that being tight-fisted with our limited resources is the quickest way to make sure we never run out. We easily believe the lie that if someone else takes one piece of the pie, there's one fewer for us, as if God can only create one pie, and that's all there ever will be.

Thankfully, we have a God who doesn't need people to serve Him, to grovel, or to make sacrifices hoping He will bless the works of their hands.

Check out this brief description of our God from Psalm 36:5 in The Message: "God's love is meteoric, His loyalty astronomic, His purpose titanic, His verdicts oceanic."

He is so full, so vast that all that He is and has generously overflows on you, on me, and on His whole creation. Our vast and generous God didn't just create once and decide He was done creating. For His children, His lavish supply never ends.

So, in faith, He calls us to over-give, to be generous to others, living out our belief that God always has more. When working with a client, give what was promised and then give a little bit more. In conversation, lavish others with our full attention and then offer a few extra minutes. When providing a product, under-promise and over-deliver. When performing a service, go the extra mile.

In Luke 6:38, God tells us that when we, in faith, generously empty our hands, something amazing happens: "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

God has been scandalously generous with you and me. Let's pray today and every day that He will give us the faith to do the same with everyone we meet.



### DEAR FIRST PREZ 'OHANA,

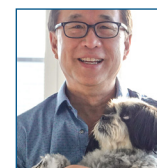
It has been seven months since our two-year generosity journey called Raise the Sails came to a close in December 2021. During that time we learned about how generous God is by nature, and how we can respond to Him with our own generosity to others and to His church. These life lessons did not end in December. They continue to inspire and motivate us today.

We want to introduce you to something we call "Generosity in Action." Through video and print (like this newsletter), we will highlight the many ways people in our church 'ohana have learned to be generous with their time, talent, and treasure. These expressions of generosity come in various forms, and that's the exciting part! Because when we are generous, others are blessed. Compassion abounds. Kindness fans out, like water from a river flowing into the sea. We become grateful people who partner with God in helping heal the world.

Partnering with God in His work at First Prez also involves supporting it with our financial resources. We've always been open with how we're doing financially, and as with many churches and organizations during these challenging times, we are at a deficit at the moment. **As of June 30, 2022, the church operating deficit stands at \$303,889.**

Would you please take that into consideration as you plan out your giving for the rest of the year? We believe that every gift counts! And we also know that the Lord is able to multiply what we have and what we give, especially when the act of giving comes from a heart of worship.

Thank you for helping create a culture of generosity at First Prez. Keep living out your faith. Keep serving others. Keep supporting what God is doing through our church. And then trust that it will lead you toward a life of purpose and meaning that will point people back to Him.



Warmly,

*Pastor Dan*

Pastor Dan and the First Prez Staff



**YOUR GIVING FUNDS ALL OUR WORSHIP SERVICES IN-PERSON AND ONLINE**

WORSHIP SERVICES

**8AM**

AND

**10AM**

ONLINE

[fpchawaii.online.church](http://fpchawaii.online.church)

MAHALO

Your church needs and appreciates your support.



## PILINA RESTORATION DAYS

Since May we've been having what we call Pilina Restoration Days, where we work together on different sections of our Ko'olau Property to help restore it. Please join us for the next one! Here are the four key things to know:

### WHAT

- Restore: Hand-girdle invasive Albizia trees to start their slow decline.
- Connect: Observe stream ecosystem touch tanks. Fun for all ages!
- Heal: Plant native trees in former sand bunkers.
- Enjoy: Bring a brown bag lunch, we'll break at 11:30 to eat together.

### WHEN

Last Saturday of the month, from 9AM till 12:30PM:  
Aug 27, Sept 24, and Oct 29

### WHERE

The former golf course on our Ko'olau property

### WHY

Hakuhia means to invent, to innovate. By remembering, connecting, and redeeming, Hakuhia will create a place of healing and new life for our community. Hakuhia is a place where both the 'āina and people flourish, it is a space where Ka hia a ka Haku—the delight of the Lord—takes place.

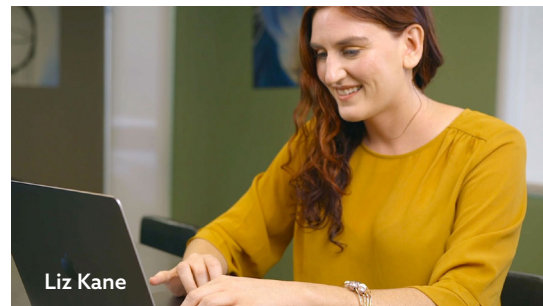


## LIVING OUT GENEROSITY testimonies from our church family members

Check out two of many amazing people in our church who are living generous lives. Listen to their stories at

[www.raisethehills.org/generosity-in-action](http://www.raisethehills.org/generosity-in-action)

If you, too, have a story of how you've experienced God's grace and generosity, let us know. Email [aloha@fpchawaii.org](mailto:aloha@fpchawaii.org)



## WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 **ONLINE** through the website: [fpchawaii.org/give](http://fpchawaii.org/give) or [raisethesails.org/give](http://raisethesails.org/give) where you can make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts.
- 2 **IN-PERSON**: in the offering boxes at in-person worship services
- 3 **TEXT-TO-GIVE**: Text "FPCHI" to 77977
- 4 **FIRST PREZ APP**: Choose the GIVE button on the app (available in the Apple App Store or Google Play—search up "First Presbyterian Honolulu")
- 5 **MAIL** your check to the church. Call the church office at (808) 532-1111 to request pre-addressed, stamped envelopes.

**"THE LORD IS ABLE TO MULTIPLY WHAT WE HAVE AND WHAT WE GIVE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE ACT OF GIVING COMES FROM A HEART OF WORSHIP." – PASTOR DAN**

## MISSION PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: HOW YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS OTHER MINISTRIES

BY MADE IN HOPE (PHILIPPINES) EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR MICHELLE TOLENTINO

MADE IN HOPE currently reaches out to 52 women survivors of sex trafficking in two communities. They are also the moms of 75 children. As part of our She LEADS (Leadership Empowerment And Development) Program, we aim to develop the survivors in their God-given skills and talents, usher them into a deeper relationship with God, and hone their leadership capacities.

Last year, we selected five mom-survivors as Livelihood Trainees. Each training day starts with morning devotion, where we discussed about the Gospel reading. The rest of the time was spent on teaching them livelihood skills and conducting sessions on parenting, women's issues, basic facilitation skills and practical outworking of what they were learning by doing home visitations to their fellow survivors in their respective communities. Through these, they gradually learned about Jesus and His ministry, His character and His compassionate heart for the marginalized and oppressed, including women.

Here's what one of the trainees wrote: "I never thought that I will have the kind of life that I have now. One year ago, I was so devastated—my relationship with my live-in partner was really messy; we quarreled a lot, my kids did not have food to eat, we were so poor. When I got involved with She WORKS as a trainee, my life began to have light. I could not explain it, but as I came to know God through our devotions and prayer, I learned that I can come to Him when I have problems.

"I also observed myself becoming more interested in God; before I used to shun things that have to do with the Bible or with God. But when I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior, my life gradually began to take shape. Now I dream of raising good and godly kids, and that they will finish their college degree. I have learned how to reach out to my fellow survivors; before I was just by myself and I cared less about other people. I just did what I wanted to do without caring about the harm that it will do to my family or to others. I thank God for changing my life for good."



**QUESTIONS REGARDING  
YOUR GIVING?**

Contact Debbie  
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(808) 836-9995

**RAISETHEHILLS.ORG**