

the Pastor's Corner

“Eager to Get Home”

As a preacher I tend to look at things – everyday encounters and surroundings, from a different perspective with an intent to always learn a lesson from it. Of course these experiences provide the best illustrations for sermons and presentations. Well, here's one I want to share for this month's newsletter.

I've done quite a bit of traveling this year to the South Pacific. In April I flew to Hawaii to conduct an evangelistic series and then again in July. In August, for our family vacation, we flew to Samoa, spent time with my family then to Fiji, spent time with some friends, then back home. I noticed something interesting on every one of these and other trips I've taken. The next time you travel you may want to note it for yourself. Immediately after the plane touches ground the flight attendant will come on the intercom and makes an announcement that goes something like this, "Please remain seated with your seatbelts fastened until we have come to a complete stop at the gate." But you will also notice that most people don't even pay attention to the announcement because they immediately (and you can hear it) unbuckle their seatbelts while the airplane is taxiing over to the gate. Why do travelers react this way? It's obvious. People are anxious to get out of the plane and get home to their loved ones.

It makes me think of what Paul says to the believers in Philippi. Phil 3:20 – "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ..." Paul says, we don't belong here, we're on the kingdom plane traveling to our heavenly home. I believe, in the same manner, we ought to be anxious to get out of this world and get home to see Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Looking at the situation our world is in and our nation's economy. I wonder how many are really eager to go to our heavenly home and see our Lord and Savior. By the way, the most important thing about the kingdom is seeing Jesus. How eager are you to get to our heavenly home?

-Pastor Fred Toailoa

Christ did not fail, neither was He discouraged, and His followers are to manifest a faith of the same enduring nature. They are to live as He lived, and work as He worked, because they depend on Him as the great Master Worker. Courage, energy and perseverance they must possess. Though apparent impossibilities obstruct their way, by His grace they are to go forward. Instead of deploring difficulties, they are called upon to surmount them. They are to despair of nothing and to hope for everything. With the golden chain of His matchless love Christ has bound them to the throne of God. It is His purpose that the highest influence in the universe, emanating from the source of all power, shall be theirs. They are to have power to resist evil, power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master, power that will enable them to overcome as Christ overcame.

(Ellen White, from the book "Lift Him Up" , page 290)