

Pastor's Corner

From Pastor Fred Toailoa

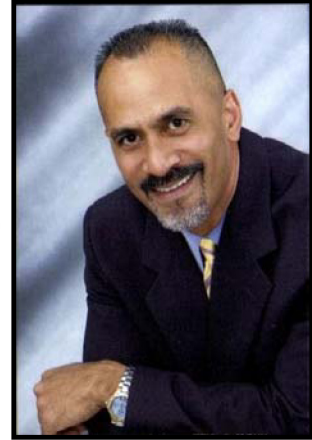
Lessons from the Samoa Tsunami

The recent tsunami in the South Pacific islands of Samoa was a major tragedy for my people. True it may not have had the death numbers like the numbers from the Indonesia tsunami but it is still a major disaster for us. One must understand that having 10 people die at any one time in the islands for whatever reason is big time news for us Pacific Islanders. Now to have almost 200 people confirmed dead is beyond imagination. It is simply unheard of but of course that's true until mother nature takes its course.

There are many inspirational stories and thoughts drawn from this tragedy that we can all use to learn from. One of those stories I shared in my sermon a few Sabbaths ago following the tragic event. It was about a man named Faaolaina Kalolo who lived in one of the demolished villages. He says in an interview: "We are so thankful to be alive. So many others in other villages have been lost." Kalolo was actually thankful for his dogs and he attributed his survival to his dogs. He apparently escaped the tsunami by fleeing to a taro plantation in the hills when he heard his dogs barking and running away from the sea. He later said, "**If the dogs run to safety, you follow. You run!**" That is exactly what Kalolo did and it saved his life.

I believe the dogs sensed and saw the disaster coming. Thus their lives were spared along with their owner. I believe also that animals have strong senses of which humans don't have. Don't we wish humans can have those strong senses sometimes? It probably would have helped many villagers to escape this terrible tragedy.

Spiritually, I believe the devil has desensitized us so much that sometimes we can't hear and understand what God is trying to say to us. I see that all around us today. As we see these events happening everywhere in the world, we, as Adventist Christians, understand from the word of God the meaning behind it all. But many do not see beyond that because the devil has literally plugged up their ears and blinded their eyes to the fact that these things will all take place right before Jesus comes. "When ye see all these things, know ye that he is nigh, *even* at the doors." (Matt 24:33)



Thanksgiving Social

Sunday, November 22nd

Citrus Heights

*Seventh-day Adventist
Church*

