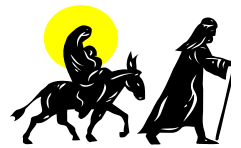




## 2021 Walk to Bethlehem



### Week 6 Meditation

#### Ohana

*“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

*Galatians 3:26-29*

Who is in your “*Ohana*?” The Hawaiians have a wonderful word in their vocabulary that means “family.” The word, however, means so much more than family. “*Ohana*” is the extended family of relationships that we have with each other. You don’t have to be Hawaiian to be a part of the *Ohana* in Hawaii. It is simply understood that family and friends are bound together and members of the *Ohana* naturally cooperate and honor each other.

The Hawaiians understand God’s concept of love and inclusiveness. All are welcome. Everyone is family. When the angel of the Lord told Mary that she was to birth the Son of God and that her relative Elizabeth was to have a child, she “got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth” (Luke 2: 39, 40). Mary hurried to see her blood relative Elizabeth. She needed the support of her “*Ohana*.” As Jesus’ ministry developed, however, we see that He formed a new family - the family of believers - known as brothers and sisters in Christ. Bloodlines and family trees are no longer required to be part of the family of God. Those who know Christ are part of the “*Ohana*” of God.

When we become part of the family of God, we are bound by a most amazing blood relationship. The blood of Jesus has “*cleansed us from all unrighteousness*” (I John 1:9) and has allowed us to enter into fellowship and relationship with God Himself and with others. We are bound together and united together by the blood of Jesus, which has wiped away our sins. This blood relationship with other Christ followers is precious, deep if we allow it to be, and eternal. May we all strive to develop those eternal relationships with God our heavenly father and with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Ponder these questions this week and please send your thoughts (and any pictures) to:*  
[stpaulwtb@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulwtb@gmail.com)

*Questions to ponder:*

1. *Are your friendships superficial or deep?*
2. *What makes a friendship deep and everlasting?*
3. *Do you have a friend with whom you share personal struggles and joys?*
4. *How was Christ present to you through this person as a brother/sister in Christ?*
5. *Do you share personal struggles and joys with Jesus, the ultimate counselor?*