

Mission Grant Story

Programs of Restoration in Paradise Lost Lutheran Indian Ministries - \$75,000

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound ... (Isaiah 61:1).

Hawaii to most Americans is a vacation paradise with beautiful beaches, warm sunshine and carefree days. But to the native Kanaka people life has been full of pain and suffering since the island was colonized. Many were victimized in ways similar to the Native Americans of the mainland during the expansion of the west. Now, many social issues face this proud people.

In recent years the homeless population has grown. Many of homeless are native Hawaiians who are hardworking people but can't afford the extremely high cost of living. So, even though they work two jobs, they struggle with poverty and the resulting problems of crime, violence and suicide.

Lutheran Indian Ministries (LIM) is at work in Hawaii with the Kanaka people but they have found that the ministry works best if it is done by Kanaka people so a Kanaka—to—Kanaka program was started. One of the Kanaka men, Clarence, has completed two years of theological training. He is working with LIM to be a witness of God's love to his people, to train new leaders in the faith and to address the spiritual, social and emotional needs of his people.

This grant will help pay for Clarence's theological training; set up a VBS/Teen Camp; provide materials for Bible studies and set up seminars about sexual abuse and leadership training. A former church building is available for these programs provided through this grant. Because of LIM and Clarence, a soon to be LCMS pastor, the Kanaka people will have someone they know and trust to bring the life-saving message of Jesus Christ to them and their families.