



July 8, 2020

Made in His Image

Dear Trinity `Ohana,

I hope you had a nice 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. I was grateful for the extra day (July 3<sup>rd</sup>), but truthfully, my weekend was saddening because of the events occurring in Kailua over the American flags placed around town. Following it on social media was depressing.

I also had time this weekend to text a friend who, years ago, adopted four black children and has two white children of her own. She shared with me the racism that her black children have endured. Her oldest was beaten up when he was only 15. It took over a year and a half for the attacker to finally be arrested when he attacked someone else. She also shared with me that someone called CPS when her 12-year-old black son was chasing her 10-year-old white daughter around the front yard!

My heart aches over these two separate but similar events. Separate since they are spread over location, time and circumstance. But similar because of man's sin that is so apparent in each. Jesus commands us to **repent** (Matt. 4:17), **be reconciled** (Matt. 5:23-25), **love your enemies** (Matt. 5:44-46), **seek God's kingdom** (Matt. 6:19-21), **judge not** (Matt. 7:1-3), **do unto others** (Matt. 7:12), **forgive offenders** (Matt. 18:21-22), and **love your neighbor as yourself** (Matt. 22:39-40).

As a school, our goal is to educate our students that racism is wrong and unacceptable. We want to teach them to see our fellow man as God sees them-- made in His image and as His children.

*"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, **from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and the Lamb!"*

(Rev. 7:9-10)

This is part of my vision for Trinity—that our students will see the color of each other's skin and appreciate and value each person's beauty, respecting each as a child of God. I wish that our students will engage cultures and races through Jesus' eyes and not the world's and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Aloha,

Linda