

THE MAUI MO'IKEHA AND EXTENDED FAMILY (Direct Linages)

One year ago my sister Charlene Keli'iliki who is with the Social Sciences Dept. of BYU-Hawaii, volunteered me to this speaking assignment of the Mo'ikeha Family. Every other month or so, I would call her, complain about all the other things I needed to do and then I would ask her to get us released from this talk. She always said that it was impossible, apologize and then hung up. I vowed each time that when I got to Maui, I would beat her up with a wet noodle. Today, I thank her for the privilege and opportunity that is mine to speak of the family that I love with every fiber of my being. I have learned through my hours of research more than I had ever hoped to know of my loved ones. As the oldest of my generation, I speak on behalf of the great posterity to which I belong too and of the blessings which is ours to be of **JAMES AND ANNIE MO'IKEHA**.

I have taken the liberty this morning of having Mr. Herb Kane's painting of the "Voyaging King, Mo'ikeha" reproduced by my nephew Chad Keli'iliki for this gathering. I wish not to offend Mr. Kane but to share with you this great picture of the first Mo'ikeha to these fair islands. The original work hangs in the Wailua-Sheraton on the island of Kauai:

The name **MO'IKEHA** given this great man by his father meant that "he was the greatest of his father's descendants." Today, we understand his name as we use it to mean "great king." As descendants of this Hawaiian forebearer, we his many children thank him for discipline of mind and body, for courage, fortitude, racial extraction and royal bloodline. To read of him and to study of him is to learn of his spiritual and emotional strengths which allowed him and his family the knowledge to make wise decisions for themselves in their continuous search for the better life. Truly, we say that we are indigenous to this land Hawaii and we refer to Mo'ikeha simply today as the progenitor of our family and will not delve into genealogy which is yet another subject.

This other chart outlines the family of James and Annie Mo'ikeha. It will help both you and I keep the persons I speak of today in some semblance of order.

James "Boniface" Mo'ikeha (Boniface a Catholic baptismal name) met Annie when she was 14 years of age. He courted her and married her in the year 1905. Her full name, **Annie Kaluailahaina Keaweiwi**. She too was of royal lineage of the Keawe line of the island of Hawai'i. Her middle name spoke of "the burial pit for the Hawaiian royalty in Lahaina" and her last name meant "the bone taken from Adam to make Eve." There is an element of surprise in the meaning of

her last name. Had her early forefathers heard the gospel somewhere a long time ago? How do we explain the name given so long ago? Did her spirit from the very core of her body and soul harbor a sacred message heard once before?

Surely the documented genealogy of 82 generations (circa 56 B.C.) that she left in her legacy to her children, must have great tales of a Savior who was born, crucified and then resurrected. We can only speculate at this time but I must say it brings some very warm thoughts to mind.

To bring us to modern day Hawaii, in the word's of Annie's journal with my grammatical corrections: "Three brothers Mo'ikeha and their sister left the island of Kaua'i for a look-see at the other islands of the Hawaiian chain. After being out on the open ocean for a while, the sister asked to return to Kaua'i for food and water. In anger, the brothers returned to Kaua'i but left their sister there to continue on their journey. They first stopped at the island of O'ahu where they remained for three days to view the island. They did not like it so they continued on to the island of Maui. They landed at Nahiku and found the place to their liking and decided to remain. One brother Kahue met, courted and then married Palaualelo. After the marriage took place, the couple moved to Papohaku to make their home. They had three children; Kipaukuhia a son, and 2 daughters Kahemahema and Naheana. The son of Kahue, Kipaukuhia, married a daughter of Hamili (I found her name later to be Ka'ana'ana Holani) and their children were: Kalua Kipakuhia (k), Kailieha (w), Jack P. Kaonohi (k), Helen (Ka'alena) (w) and James Mo'ikeha (k).

As to why and how Annie got to be living on Maui has always been a question. She was of Kona parentage and birth. When James met her, she was living with the Mahi family in Iao and he found her standing in cold water up to her neck because she was supposedly unclean due to her menstrual period. He took her immediately away.

My grandparents had fourteen children. They listed on the chart including one stillborn and a child who lived a short time. My father Charles is the fourth son, however, he was the oldest son and was given much prestige. My grandfather James began as a jail clerk and became the County Jailer which was a position of much honor and responsibility. His wife then became the County Matron for the Police dept. of Wailuku. They first lived in Pi'ihana or what is known as Happy Valley today, where they own much of their own land. My father once recalled to me "Papa once owed a bit of money to a man who called at the house for payment. Not having ready cash, Papa invited the gentleman to toss a rock as far as the man could in four different directions and the land encompassed within the rock toss would be the payment for the bill owed." From my father I was

made to understand that my Tutu Annie worked hard and several times returned from field work to give birth to the baby then due. Her only nursemaid at the later births was my father Charles. Those hard times have always remained vivid in his mind.

Later as Papa's responsibilities grew in the county, he and his family moved into a 6 bedroom house in the very location where the county office buildings now stands. It was in that home that all the grandchildren remember their grandparents and where they were loved and taught the gospel principles at the knee of their Tutu, Annie Mo'ikeha. There were 23 grandchildren.

My father Charles or Ka'iwa as he was then called, told me this story when I was quite young concerning his father's conversion to the church. "One night as Papa prepared for bed, he felt extremely tired and went to sleep almost immediately and began to dream. He dreamed he was riding his horse in a very large and grassy meadow. He had been riding for quite a spell when his horse stumbled and he fell to the ground. His fall was a bad one and he felt as if he was dying. As he laid there in great pain, two young men came along and administered to his wounds. In their administrations, he felt his strength return and soon he was well enough to get back on his horse and ride off on his way. He awoke, thought about the dream and then went back to sleep. The dream repeated itself several times through out the night and upon rising in the morning, he felt compelled to share the dream with Annie. Before long, as he began his day's duties, there was a knock at the front door. He went to answer the knock only to find two young men, the two of his dream, introducing themselves as Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints."

How grateful we of the younger generation are to these two missionaries. My son, Haili has tried to do some research on their names but have not been successful. But, does it matter? Their reward will be from the Lord himself and who knows, maybe all parties concerned have met on the other side of the veil.

Soon after my move to Kamuela ten years ago, my husband Alex spoke with an old friend who turned out to be my distant cousin. Kawika was surprised to learn of Alex's marriage to a Mo'ikeha. In his words, "the Mo'ikeha family was too high makamaka," snobbish is the right term I guess. "They lived in Wailuku and looked down upon the people of Happy Valley." When the story was repeated to me, I was saddened because I knew the family and his grandfather had been a witness to some of my Dad's priesthood ordinations and his father was a buddy to my Dad. Well, due to excessive alcohol abuse by his dad, the family suffered both financially and spiritually. In their embarrassment, they felt that we looked down on them. It was a difficult time. I know because,

sometimes my Dad was the drinking partner. Kawika did say, however, that Uncle Jubilee always was kind and gave them money."

The entire incident cause me to reflect back on the goings and comings of the Mo'ikeha clan. True, we were not perfect. We made many errors through a learning period and I know that James and Annie were trying to be good examples and good teachers. We were tempted by brother Lucifer as the gospel was beginning to take a firm hold on the family. Papa and Tutu set a pace for us and the goals set for their offspring were prayed about and worked at. We were given choices and we were taught to make wise choices and we enjoyed unconditional love at their hands. The love they had for one another, their family, their home, came second to their love for God and Church. For, the Church had become the focal point for their daily lives. Their love sustained us when we fell from the straight and narrow path, when we were separated one from the other and it comforted and encouraged us to continue to lean on the arm of the Lord. It smooth the rough spots in our lives as it laid the firm foundation of the gospel. "Train a child in the way he should walk while yet in his youth, and when he is old, he will not depart from it", is the way the Book of Proverbs in the Bible explains it. If there were hurt feelings along the way, I, along with the many family members, have often asked for the forgiveness of others.

After embracing the gospel, my grandparents became fully entrenched in the Wailuku Branch. Church attendance became a major part of their lives. Prayer and fasting became a common practice in their home. Children began to conform their lives to this "Mormon" way and soon after the dedication of the Hawaii Temple in Laie, James and Annie took their seven living children and went to the House of the Lord to be sealed for time and all eternity. James had been baptized earlier in Nov. 1901 and from Church records gathered, we understand that Annie was baptized in Nov. of 1898. It is not a surprise because she was living with the family Mahi who had already received the teachings of the gospel from Elder George Q. Cannon earlier. As to whether or not she fully participated in gospel activities at that tender age, we do not know. She was known to be very close to a Papu Mahi and attended church with her as a young woman. We know for a certain that her full participation became apparent when James decided to become a convert. We have accepted the theory that my grandparents became fully converted and committed to the gospel together, no matter when they were baptized. In later records we will speak of Annie being a convert.

With the family fully involved in the Church and its activities, Annie turned her research abilities towards genealogy work. When her research became difficult, she fasted and prayed unto the Lord for help. Revelation then became a part of her life. In her dreams she would be visited by

a grand aunt who gave to her the names, dates and locations of the people of whom she was seeking. After the revelation, she would wake her son Solomon to record the names for her. He became her scribe in all the years to follow. Sometimes the dreams would show her women with long hair and foot long fingernails. She realized they were the evil ones of her family and in her terror would ask the Lord to remove the images. So, like all families there were the good ones and the bad ones within the family circle.

The 1930's began the family missionary preparations and commitments for the future. In 1935, the sisters Hattie and Annie were called on a mission to the island of Moloka'i. Let me share a letter written to them on July 23, 1935 by their Mission President Castle Murphy;

Sisters Hattie and Annie Mo'ikeha
Box 1
Hoolehua, Moloka'i

My Dear Sisters:

Your fine letters reporting your safe arrival on Molokai, the land of your assignment, and also the joy that has come to you with this Missionary Call, was received. I appreciate sincerely your willingness to serve as Missionaries and feel that the results of this duty will not only be beneficial to those among whom you have been called to labor, but also to yourself. It will provide new contacts and perhaps open up new hopes for the future.

I have known and loved your parents for a quarter of a century and appreciate you just as much because of your faithfulness. May the Lord attend you as you discharge your duties. May peace be your lot and may satisfaction flow unto you always.

Sister Murphy join in sending Aloha in this petition as well.

Sister Martha will instruct you as to the date of your departure for home at the conclusion of Missionary labors on Molokai with her.

I am,

Very Sincerely your brother,
Castle Murphy, Mission President.

I was a year old. This was 54 years ago. It was a humble beginning but a big start for setting an example for the future generations.

In the 1940's the world picture changed drastically. The United States went to war against the aggression of both Japan and Germany. Many missionaries were recalled home for their safety and to

serve in the armed forces. Some missions even had to close. In Hawaii however, matters were a little different. Let me quote to you from the Church News in the year 1945: "As the missionaries were gradually withdrawn from the missions of the Church it became necessary for the local Latter-Day Saints to 'take up the slack' if the missionary work of the Church was to proceed. Many have been the stories of sacrifice and devotion to the cause that have been told as a result of the call of those charged with this great work.

One of the most recent comes from the islands of the sea, and its subject is a family of eight forceful native Hawaiian missionaries who were released from all their Church positions and set apart by the Hawaiian Mission President to devote all their spare time on the island of Maui.

In a letter from Castle H. Murphy the events incident to their call is related. His letter follows:

Editor, Church News
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Brother:

As the missionary force in the Hawaiian Mission was reduced to eight, three married couples and two young elders released by their draft boards, local people accepted and discharged additional responsibilities to their everlasting credit.

On the occasion of my visit to the island of Maui in February of this year, I felt impressed to issue missionary calls to the eight members of the Mo'ikeha family at Wailuku. This call for part time missions were accepted wholeheartedly by each of the eight and on February 19, 1945, they were set apart.

Since that date this missionary family has accomplished a great work among their own people. They expect to take their vacations at the same time and spend the entire time on some other island in missionary service. It was necessary for the branch president at Wailuku, Maui to release these eight members from a total of twenty-four positions in his branch. Those positions are now filled by others and greater interest in Church work is the result.

Very Sincerely,
Castle H. Murphy

Papa had been dead six years. Brother Jimmy was dead due to a truck accident. Charles was raising a family of five children. Andrew was handicapped with deafness and David was still a young man. I continue to quote from the Church News:

1. Sister Annie Kaluailahaina Keaweiwi Mo'ikeha, the mother of the family group, was a convert to the Church. Sister Mo'ikeha has served as President of the Wailuku and of the District Relief Society. At the time of her recent release to do missionary work she was a teacher in both the Relief Society and the Sunday School.
2. Hattie Kailieha, the eldest of the Mo'ikeha family, has held every possible position in every auxiliary organization in the branch. Before being called on a mission she was a teacher of the Gospel Doctrine class in Sunday School and President of the Primary.
3. Daniel Pohakuhauli has been District Secretary for the M.I.A. as well as Mutual President of the branch and more recently Superintendent of the Sunday School, from which position he was released to accept the mission call.
4. Solomon Kekanaka'iloko'oka'oihana has been District Aaronic Priesthood leader, First Counselor in the Wailuku Branch Presidency, Superintendent of the Sunday School and head of the Church Welfare Work of the branch. His mission call necessitated his release from all these positions.
5. Annie Kaluailahaina has held successively positions as District Primary president, Chorister, Sunday School Secretary, District Y.W.M.I.A. President and recently Sunday School Secretary.
6. Jubilee Holani has served as M.I.A. Athletic Director and as First Counselor in the Sunday School Superintendency.
7. Amy Hooipoipo Cockett, wife of Solomon K. and the mother of three children, has been M.I.A. District Secretary, Wailuku Branch and Sunday School Chorister, Branch M.I.A. Secretary, and a Sunday School teacher.
8. Evelyn Kawahine Kuloloia is the wife of Daniel P. and the mother of three children. She served as M.I.A. Secretary and Sunday School teacher until released for missionary work.

Pairs for the work were organized as such: Sol and Amy, Dan and Evelyn, Hattie and Annie and Mother Annie with Jubilee. Cottage meetings were held every night. These are known as Firesides today. When a car was available, the family were assigned together to one area. Of course they thought there were too many of them at one place at one time so they reassigned themselves to different areas.

In Jubilee's words of that special experience, "I did not enjoy the travels my mother had to endure. We did not have a car and so we walked. Sometimes to Waihee, sometimes to Paukukalo or Waiehu. My mother was not a young woman and I thought this was a hardship on her. However, I must say she was strong. Whenever a car could be had, Brother Sol had one, we visited the areas of Peahi, Keanae, Hana, Waikapu and Kihei. If there was no car, my mother walked."

Auntie Amy relates that she and Uncle Sol were assigned to the Lahaina area. They visited the members but their mission was to contact the non-members. They held many cottage meetings in the plantation homes. Their children became used to studying in the back seat of the car but often were cared for by the Mathias family of Lahaina.

Release for all the family came at a conference on Moloka'i held in April 1946. Previously, Jubilee was released in March to serve in the Armed Forces.

In 1948, Hattie left on her third mission to Laie. It was not a long one as she died there while in the service of her God. I remember Auntie Hattie telling her mother how happy she was to be serving in the shadow of the temple.

In 1952, David Ho'olanaikamana'o left on his three year mission to Japan. Also under the Japan Mission at that time were both the Chinese and Korean missions. He traveled to both Korea and Hong Kong. David was the last of Papa and Tutu's children to be born. Let me share a story of his birth as related by his older brothers. "Uncle Lana, as we know him, was the first child to have the medical attention of a doctor at his birth. Tutu's health was poor because of bleeding thru out the pregnancy. At the birthing the doctor feared for her life and she appeared to be slowly dying. She was too weak to fight for her life. Papa, at her side, kept insisting "Ho'olanaikamana'o." He kept saying "think of better things and only of good things." When both she and the baby pulled through, she named him David for her brother and his Hawaiian name became Ho'olanaikamana'o. Uncle has been and is still a credit to his mother and father's name.

These children of James and Annie Mo'ikeha began a chain reaction in the family for service in the missionary field. The cloth had been woven, the dye had been cast. The pattern was being cut and the garment now needed to be sewn. One by one the pieces began to take shape and construct beautifully. The gospel foundation had been laid and now began the building of testimonies, dedications and commitments made, and preparations for living the gospel principles were started. James and Annie laid the cornerstone for their posterity when they dedicated their own personal lives to service in their Heavenly Father's kingdom.

Of the Mo'ikeha grandchildren, Dannette the daughter of Daniel was the first to serve in a mission field here in Hawaii. Her time was between 1955 until 1957 on both Maui and O'ahu.

In 1963, Mona Amy or Ipo as most of us know her, left for her call to the Japan Mission. She served two years valiantly. She is the daughter of Sol and Amy Mo'ikeha. Meanwhile, in California, Haili, the first born great grandchild, grandson of Charles and Pauline Mo'ikeha, served as a temporary companion for a lone missionary in his senior summer.

In the 1970's we saw the graduating grandson and great-grandsons prepare for their mission calls. In 1973, Lee Kalei, son of Jubilee and Florence Mo'ikeha left for the Japan-Tokyo Mission. He was a joy to his parents. Following one month later, Haili Pokipala left for his full time mission to Mexico Southeast Mission. His work there included baptizing nearly 300 souls for his Father in heaven. Let me read two excerpts from his two mission presidents as his mission was split during his service there.

"Addressed to his parents, May 23, 1975--Our feelings for your son Benjamin Peter Davis Pokipala, Jr., are very personal, deep and invaluable. We know that he is a great man, a chosen servant of the Lord, and a magnificent and useful citizen of the kingdom. We have had a beautiful experience because of him and through him have grown to love you, who are people which we highly esteem.-----We are going to be released as presidents of this mission and therefore we extend to you our sincere thanks for the confidence that you had in us and for the special time of association with your very loved, respected, and beautiful son, for whom we ask that you love, want and care for, the rest of your life.

Benjamin and Magdalena Parra"

The second from Pres. Abraham Lozano of the Mexico Villahermosa Mission. And I quote: "----I feel sad because your son Elder Benjamin Pokipala will leave my mission in just a few days. And I

say that I feel sad because I will lose an excellent missionary and a magnificent assistant. --But at the same time how happy I feel to know that he will be released honorably after being loyal to the cause of the Lord."

Craig Yuzon, son of Bobbie Sylva Yuzon, daughter of Momi Mo'ikeha, left for his mission call in 1977. He served in the Portuguese mission of Sao Paulo, Brazil. In 1978, my sister Charlene waved farewell to her son Chance Keli'iliki as he left to serve in the Idaho-Boise Mission.

In 1980, we saw four missionaries leave for their missions. 1980 was the year that Chance's brother Chad Keli'iliki left for a successful two year mission in the South Dakota Mission amongst the Lamanites. Shortly thereafter, in 1980, Lanakila Pokipala the brother to Haili Pokipala left for his former home state to serve in the California-Los Angeles Mission. He was not happy about being called to the area in which he was born but it turned out to be a busy and happy mission where he used his musical talents to their utmost. In a letter from his mission president Elder F. Briton McConkie I quote: "--Elder Nathan Lanakila Pokipala has been appointed District Leader in the wilmington District in the California-Los Angeles Mission. This honor has come to him as a result of the excellent and faithful service he was rendered in this mission.-----This is a great responsibility for any young man.-----for we realize that your love, training, faith, and prayers have contributed in large measure to your son's success as a missionary and that you share in the honor that has come to him."

In 1983, Rence Kauokalani, son of Jubilee and Florence Mo'ikeha went to the Chinese Mission in San Jose, California. There he did great work amongst the Vietnamese people. He had to learn both Chinese and Vietnamese. His mission president wrote of his meaningful contributions to the mission. A few months ago we saw our last young missionary return home to his family. He is David, the son of David and Sanae Mo'ikeha. He returns from a valiant mission to Chile.

We have had someone in the mission field every decade since 1935 when Hattie and Annie were called on their mission to Moloka'i. We pray that as we go into the 1990's, there will yet be another leave on their special mission journey. God willing, the cycle goes on.

In two letters written in Hawaiian to my Tutu Annie Mo'ikeha back in the 1940's there is much reference to the appreciation of the Church and the Lord for family dedication to service in the mission field and to the Church itself. There is a special spirit rendered through out the letters which somehow blesses her with the work that has since taken place after the letters were written.

The letters were written by Castle Murphy who spent many years here in the islands as the Hawaiian Mission president. I have had them translated to me through many tears of the lady doing the translation so I know there have been fruits from the labors of my family.

Meanwhile, through out the many years passing, 88 years to be exact since Papa's baptism, the rest of us serve in every possible position and calling in this great church. Those who never had the opportunity to serve a mission were ward and branch leaders, auxilliary heads, teachers, secretaries, choristers, choir leaders, pianists and organists, baby sitters, high council men, bishops, branch presidents, athletic directors, clerks, team players, activities directors, scout leaders and etc. We have remained supportive to our missionaries as we served in our various wards and branches with an eye single to the glory of God. We have not sacrificed beyond our means. We have no poverty amongst us. We have been truly tested in some areas for "those whom the Lord loves, He tests the hardest. We in many cases have been to the temple for our own endowments, have married there and go often to renew our covenants and continue the work started by Annie for our kindred dead. If we have not as yet had the blessings of the temple, we are daily trying to improve our lot and we are in many instances lucky to have supporting spouses. We count as our two returned missionaries who have married into the family, both Donovan Lewis and Scott Bradshaw. They can only enhance our endeavors to raise our children in the gospel.

Our genealogical work has grown to major proportions. Much has been done and we are so grateful for the assistance of the church and the family gatherings which provide so much information. At least once a week some family member is at the temple to do some work trying to make a dent in the list of those who wait beyond the veil. And there are those of us who eagerly do the ordinance for those who cannot make the trip often. There has been procrastination now and then but we continue to try. The cloth has been woven the dye cast. The pattern has been cut and we need to complete this garment of life which is only partly done.

This weekend the Mo'ikeha family are enjoying a reunion of sorts here on Maui. The Mormon Pacific Historical Society's meeting here has enhanced our gathering with both Uncle Jubilee and I participating in this morning's program. We are grateful. In our family gathering we will reacquaint ourselves one with the other and we will endeavor to lift the spirits of those who are less active. We will do a lot of talking. We will speak of James and Annie. We will speak again of their conversion to the gospel. We will remember the family prayers on our knees at the side of Tutu and the singing of her favorite hymns. We will speak of church attendance at the Wailuku Chapel as

well as at the other chapels long gone on Maui. We will speak of the M.I.A. activities we enjoyed: namely, the Halloween parties that always ended up at the Iao Cemetery; the talent shows; the church camp outs and picnics; 2 1/2 minute talks and the fun songs sung. We will remember when we misbehaved, we were walked out of the chapel and given a sound spanking and then walked right back into the service going on. We will recall the early years of Hattie at the piano while Annie lead the music. We will recall the many Relief Society meetings we attended at the side of our Tutu. We will speak of Jimmy singing "I Am a Mormon Boy." We will also remember running home after a long conference to play with the deck of cards and being caught, usually by Uncle Jubilee. We will talk about the long Sunday afternoon "friendly" arguments over the Sunday School lessons between Tutu with her sons and daughters. And we will not forget the wonderful meals prepared by the mother of the house who awoke each Sabbath at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. to prepare the food and the clothing needed for the day's services. And we will water at the mouth when we remember her cakes. And then there's the music. Music and the name Mo'ikeha were synonymous to one another. It has been the frosting on the cake for all of us as it has been the sweet that binds the family together. It is one of our greatest inherited talents. We will certainly remember the many young missionaries who ate at our table and held meetings with us as a family. We will speak of the loving apostles and prophets who became 'brothers' to the family. There was Pres. Heber J. Grant, Prophet George Albert Smith, Pres. David O. McKay, Apostles Spencer Kimball and Matthew Cowley. And then there were the mission presidents who were definitely family from Castle Murphy to D. Arthur Haycock. Our fondest aloha for all the blessings received at their hands.

To my family who sit here in support of this conference this day, I pray I have done justice by your name. There was so much to tell and there is much to tell of the blessings you receive each day of your lives. May you continue to serve your God unselfishly and magnify your existence here on earth.

To all of you, I thank you for your kind attention and the opportunity which has been mine today to speak in this meeting. May God bless each of us with the choicest of His blessings, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Savior, I pray. Amen.