

## LIVING THE LEGACY

Kawaiahao Church

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Aloha,

My name is Jan Dill. I am a member of the class of 1961 of the Kamehameha School for Boys. I have been asked by Na Pua A Ke Ali'i Pauahi to share with you today a few personal perspectives about living the legacy of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop. What I offer you today springs from my over forty year relationship with the Kamehameha *Ohana* and, most importantly, my recent rediscovery of my role and responsibilities to the amazing legacy of our Princess. I trust you will listen with both your ears and your hearts...perhaps what I have gone through in coming to terms with the gift of Pauahi may help you do the same.

Until May of this year, I must confess that Princess Pauahi Bishop was in my mind a very one dimensional figure. I was grateful for her endowment of the schools, but most of my thoughts and memories relating to Pauahi were of the time spent memorizing scripture and song for Founder Day ceremonies and of the long hours standing or sitting in the sun listening to speeches I couldn't or wouldn't relate to. My gratitude toward her was perfunctory, my understanding of her call in my life was faint, and certainly in my mind, unrelated to the challenges of becoming an adult and making a living in a very tough world.

Since this May, however, I have been prompted by circumstances and controversies to begin all over again to get to know the person of Bernice Pauahi Bishop. As I have studied her life and read of her deeds, as I viewed her for the first time through the writings of her contemporaries and the spare phrases of her will, I have been introduced to a remarkable woman...an exceptional individual by any standard of measure. Her pedigree was flawless, the last of the Kamehameha line, the acknowledged heir to all the privileges and responsibilities of the *alii's*. Kamehameha the Great, the *Ali'i Nui*, led his people to nationhood. Pauahi, his great granddaughter was called to lead her people to a legacy that would sustain and nourish them in a cruel and dangerous world. The last Kamehameha gave all to become a bridge and a beacon for her people's journey from one world and culture into another.

As I read more, I began to realize that Ke Ali'i Pauahi was a woman of deep and abiding faith in God. God used His servant Bernice to bless and provide for her people in a time of great trauma and turmoil. At a time when the very existence of the Hawaiian people was in question, Pauahi ministered all her worldly wealth for her people and provided all of us a vision and a legacy that remains vibrant, alive, and relevant today.

In my personal journey to understand Pauahi's legacy, a phrase out her will that describes the Princess' vision for her beneficiaries has helped me to understand the personal and practical application to my life of her gift. The will states that the

Kamehameha Schools should produce "good and industrious men and women". In all the years of my association with Kamehameha I had never focused on that vision Pauahi had for her beneficiaries. As I studied the phrase and related the English to the Hawaiian, as she must have done, I began to understand what Ke Ali'i Pauahi's legacy is for me. Let me share a few of my thoughts regarding these words. Perhaps they may help to clarify what the practical consequences of living the legacy may be for you.

To be a "good and industrious" man or woman spoke to me of our Princess' call to her beneficiaries to two basic commitments in life: 1) to maintain right relationships; and 2) to consistently strive to assist our community in building a future of hope.

I have been told that the Hawaiian word most reflective of the English word "good" is "*lokomaika'i*". It has been explained to me that this is the internalized, personal, proactive face of the concept of *pono*, or righteousness. It speaks of our responsibility to actively pursue and maintain right and wholesome relationships in our lives and to bring what is good and proper into all facets of what we think and do. Our *ali'i* have blessed us and our land with the amazing rule of life that is now our State motto. "*Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono*"... "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness"... This is the goal of the good and industrious men and women Pauahi calls us to be. Our motto proclaims to us that the essence, the essential being of our community can only be sustained and protected by each of us choosing to nurture right relationships in our lives. It is an individual act of will. It is a personal decision. It is the first step in a decision to live the legacy of Pauahi.

There are two important dimensions to right relationships as I see them modeled in the life of Pauahi. The first and fundamental right relationship that Pauahi understood and lived and the first relationship she calls us to honor and maintain is the vertical relationship with God. "*Lokomaika'i*" begins and springs from our personal relationship to the God who has created us and whom we are called to serve. Pauahi modeled this commitment. At Founder's Day we recited Psalm 24, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein, For He hath founded it upon the seas and established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul unto vanity nor sworn deceitfully, he shall receive the blessings from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation", because Pauahi believed it and because Pauahi lived it. Pauahi placed God at the center of her life.

It is humbling for me to realize that these walls that surround us today once echoed with the songs of praise and worship Pauahi sang to her Savior and God. These walls were also silent witnesses to our Princess' prayers and supplications to God for her people in their deep distress. If we are to take the first step to live the legacy of Pauahi, we need to follow her example, we need to place God and His righteousness at the center of our lives.

From the rightly maintained vertical relationship flows the responsibility to maintain right relationships on the horizontal plane. We are to put "*lokomaika'i*" into the everyday,

humdrum beat of our personal, professional, and communal lives. Pauahi's legacy and example call us to model in our lives the concept that the Hawaiian people have given to the world: "*aloha*". In our world full of hate, poverty, exploitation, arrogance and greed, the beneficiaries of Pauahi need to be, as our Princess was, the salt and the light that bring truth, hope, healing, reconciliation, accountability and health to our land.

In addition to being "good", the beneficiaries of Pauahi's legacy are called to be "industrious". My friends have told me that the phrase that captures the meaning of this word in Hawaiian is "*ho'ohana me ke mana'olana*". The concept of working or contributing to the creation of a future characterized by hope and well being. Simply put, for me this says that the legacy of Pauahi calls us to live lives focused on improving and bettering the community we live in. The legacy of the Princess does not give us the luxury of living life as spectators. The trauma of the 1880's for the Hawaiian people and Hawaii in general compelled her to invest all that she had so "good and industrious men and women" would strive to bring healing and a future of hope to her people. Life doesn't change. We still live in a world of great challenge and threat to our Hawaiian people and to our beloved community of Hawaii. Thanks to the love she had for her people and the provision she made in her legacy, today there are thousands of her beneficiaries who have been trained to be "good and industrious men and women". The question and the challenge that each of us must face is simply, are we willing to live the legacy our Princess has given us? Are we willing to be what she dreamed and wished for us all? Honor her and bless this land by saying yes.

In closing, let me give a brief, up to date picture to you of a man who has decided to live the legacy of Bernice Pauahi. I have had the privilege and pleasure over the past few years of having lunch from time to time with Kahu Kaina. During a recent outing we had been discussing Kamehameha issues when Kahu's eyes suddenly went into mid range focus and he said to us, "You know, for the past few years God has been telling me to live a 'Jazzed' life." That statement, coming out of the blue, slowed conversation down to a stop, and I began to wonder if something was wrong with Kahu's mustard and shoyu. Fortunately, he continued and explained that, like most of us, he has tried to live a life in the calm, in the sheltered harbors of life, as much as possible avoiding controversies, and content to be where he was in control and he could see clearly the horizons of life. Well, God has been calling Kahu to come out of the harbor and catch the big waves outside the breakwater...to live the "Jazzed" life as Kahu chose to characterize it. God is calling him to actively engage the important issues we face and to stand without apology for what is right and for what brings hope and healing to our families, our friends, our community. Kahu has responded, I know Pauahi is honored by Kahu's "Jazzed" life, and his example has confirmed in my mind that I too must maintain right relationships, I too must be part of the solution and strive to bring hope and health to my community, I too must live the legacy of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop. Come, *E hele mai!* Live the Legacy!!

Charles Reed Bishop, the remarkable husband of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, ended his speech at the first Founder's Day ceremony on December 19, 1888 with this thought which I also would like to close with: "We look to those who may be trained in the

Kamehameha Schools to honor the memory of the founder and the name of the schools by their good conduct, not only while in school, but in their mature lives as well. So long as we are in the right, we may reasonably trust in God for his help; let us always try to be in the right."

On behalf of the people of Na Pua A Ke Ali'i Pauahi, I thank you for coming today. May God richly bless you, your families, and our Hawaii *nei*.