



## IAO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Aloha Beloved Deployed Church of God!

Can you believe it? Here we are in July – 2020! WOW! Where has the time gone and what more surprises will 2020 bring us? Which story Iao Church can I tell you where the Holy Spirit of God has moved through our beloved Iao UCC, like feeding those in need?

Should I tell you about how the networking we began together on March 1, 2017 has resulted in our partnership with Pualani Enos of the Lili‘uokalani Trust who brought us forty-eight (48) frozen boxes of chicken on June 16<sup>th</sup> and fifty (50) boxes on June 24<sup>th</sup> to hand out to our families in need? In addition to that story, how about the one in which, along with our community partners, our church has been able to feed sixty-three (63) families through our new Food Distribution Ministry? Or the story about how we received funding from many of our local members and supporters from the mainland to purchase more food to be distributed today? Scripture tells us that Jesus and his disciples fed the five thousand (5000) – but if we examine the reading closer, the number fed can be closer to fifteen-thousand plus (15,000+) if we count the women and children. This is YOU Iao Church! This is YOU Community Partners! This is YOU supporters from the mainland and beyond! This is what it means to BE the church even from our House Churches. This is living out the phrase “the church is not closed; it is on deployment!” Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you – for allowing the Holy Spirit of God to continue to work wonders through our church as we continue to write and experience this new chapter of our history.

As the virus continues to ravage many of our communities in the mainland and a small number here in Hawaii, let us continue to shelter in place and take precautions when we are out in public. Wear your masks while out in public. Do not have a mask you say? Well, Iao UCC now has ten-dollar (\$10) masks with our name and picture of our sanctuary on them for sale as part of our summer fundraiser. Give Lloyd a call (808-244-7353) to purchase a mask, or to sell to your friends and family.

I continue to pray for our *kupuna*, our children, our youth, and all of you as we move into the next half of 2020. Let us ready ourselves for the long haul until a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available. Let us pray for one another, for those who have lost loved ones because of this virus, and pray for all the pastors, church leaders, musicians, etc. who have had to learn a new way of worship planning – yet, in ALL things – trust in God.

Blessings with love and lots of virtual hugs – *Los amo mucho!*

Rev. Floren “Tino” C. Cordova, Pastor