

Ladies Luau
“God’s Ohana”



June 16th, 2015
Merri Ellen Giesbrecht



Ross Road Sisters: We are family!



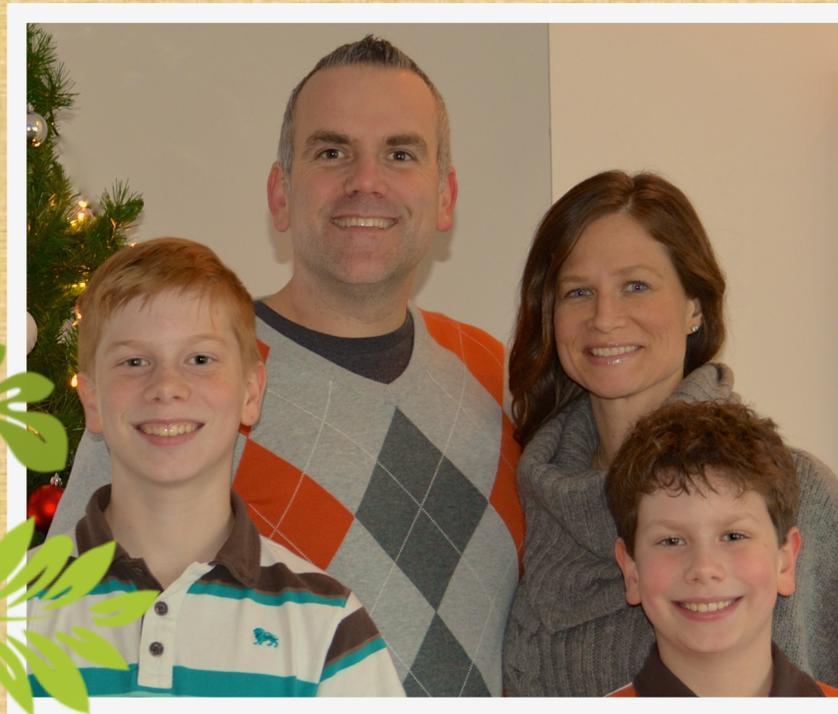
This is what family does to you! 😊
They dress you up in newspaper...





And make you act out a story about a Hockey player looking for a wife!

Ohana



Love, encouragement, nourishment,
shelter, warmth, protection, safety,
belonging...rest, fun, delight,
celebration, inspiration, listening ears,
patience, hope...





Life with family is an awkward dance... stepping on each other's toes...



The best of the best is only a mere glimpse of the perfect family waiting for us. And we live in light of looking forward to the perfect family that is waiting for us.



Now, we are in a dress rehearsal for what's waiting for us...the big Luau.



1. What should family be?

2. Let us look forward with excitement and hope.

3. Let us reflect and practice as we go.





What should family be?

This helps us to know *how to be family* to others...

... a listening ear, protection, inspiration, love through the tough things, patience, experiences shared, hope running deep because of His love flowing through us.

“An earthly family is meant to be a shelter, a solid, dependable ‘ear’ that will hear and understand, and a place in which to run.”

- *Edith Schaeffer, “What is Family?”*



We are all fallen. We are all
prone to defer to our
fleshly responses.





Looking ahead...

Our family here on earth is meant to be a picture of what God is to His family, and a glimpse of what God has planned for our eternal family.

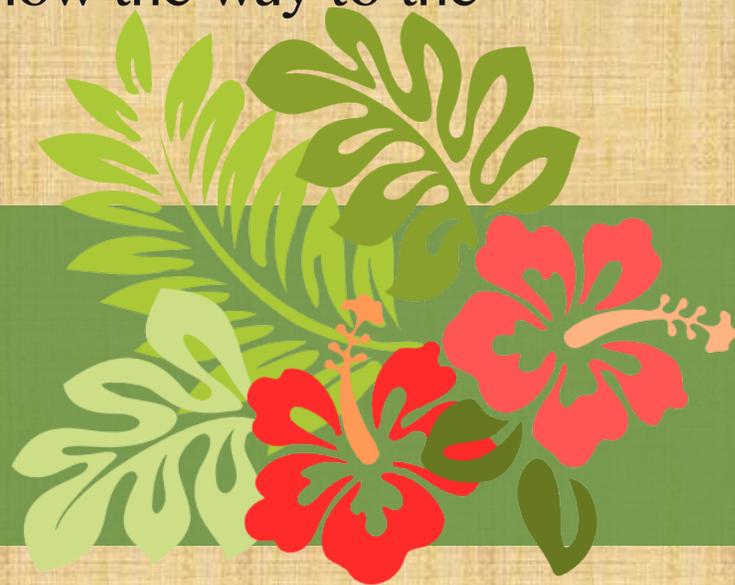
He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.

Revelation 21:4



14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

John 14



Jesus – the Way to the Father

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”



... they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:16





Where is Our Focus?

Do we love our family (whether biological or adopted church family) in light of our perfect family that is coming?

God makes it possible for you and us to stand firmly together with Christ. God is also the one who chose us ²² and put his Spirit in our hearts to show that we belong only to him.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (CEV)





We Are in a Dress Rehearsal

How do we practice here and now
being God's family to others as
we wait for our perfect family?

“When people insist on perfection or nothing, they get nothing. When people insist on having what they daydream as a perfect relationship, they will end up having no relationship at all.”

- *Edith Schaeffer, “What is a family?”*





Proverbs 15:17 NIV

Better a small serving of vegetables
with love than a fattened calf with
hatred.

The feast of love that we desire always
comes from our Heavenly Father *and then*
He blesses us with morsels through others.





2 Tim 2:13- “If we are unfaithful to Him, He Himself will remain faithful.”



How Do We Speak to Our Sisters and Brothers in Christ?

Proverbs 16:23-24 (NIRV)

²³ The hearts of wise people guide their mouths.
Their words make people want to learn more.

²⁴ Kind words are like honey.

They are sweet to the spirit and bring healing to the body.

Proverbs 15:1 - A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.



Family is where care should be so often given that it becomes natural to think of the needs of others.



The storms of life don't discriminate between rich and poor, young and old. They hit every family.





Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV)

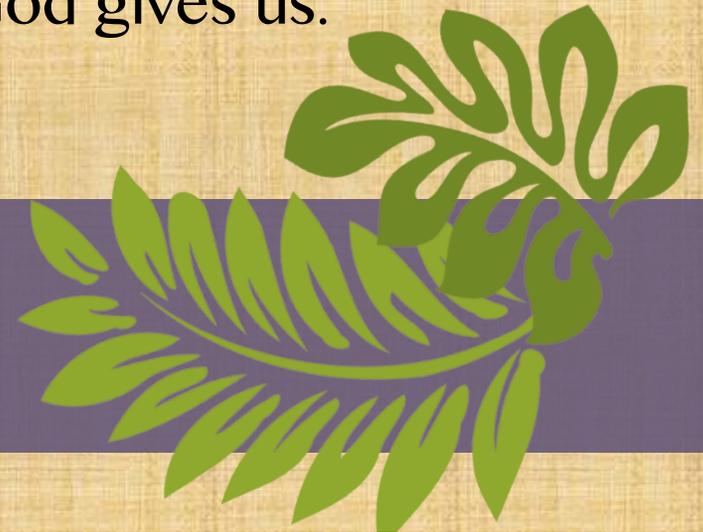
³⁵ For I was hungry, ...thirsty, ...a stranger, ...needed clothes, ...was sick, ...was in prison and you came....’

³⁷ “... ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

When one part suffers, the whole body is affected.
(1 Corinthians 12:26)

Weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.
(Romans 12:15)

Comfort others with the comfort that God gives us.
(2 Corinthians 1)



“True Family is a blending of people making a shelter in the time of storm and this is worth a lifetime.”

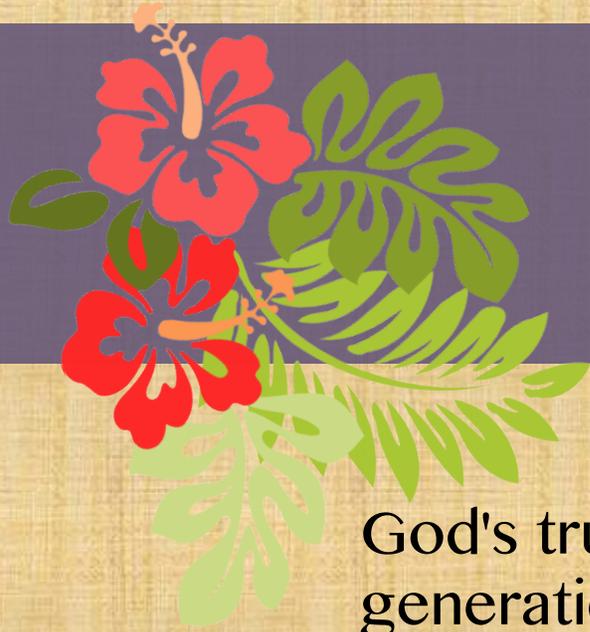




"Please, God, do a new thing for us as a family, such as you speak of in Isaiah...

Isaiah 43:19 (CEV)

¹⁹ I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it? I have put roads in deserts, streams in thirsty lands.



Sharing Family with the Younger

God's truth is to be shared from generation to generation. (Titus 2)

- Who are you discipling and mentoring?
- Whom do you invest in?
- Be intentional.



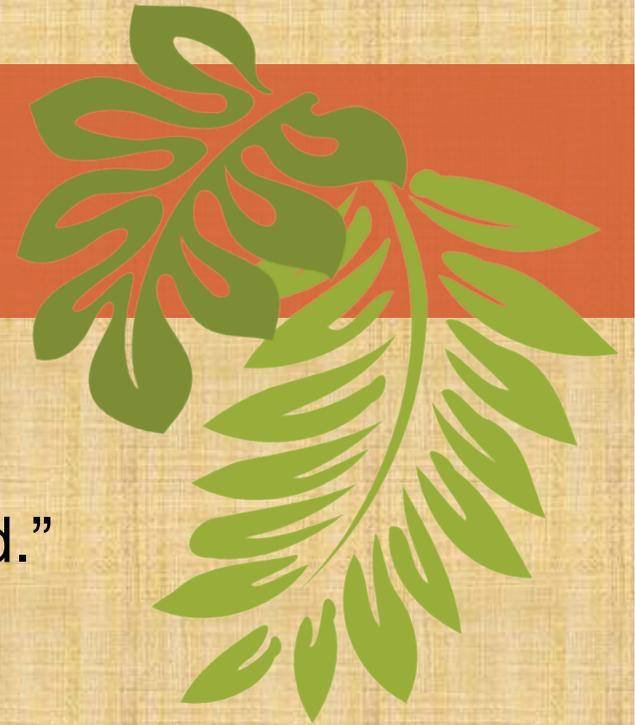
Finding True Connection in a Disconnected World with Erin Davis (Focus on the Family podcast)

How social media and technology in general can lead to isolation and loneliness. Help for finding and maintaining strong, healthy relationships.

How is Your Authentic Love?

(1 Corinthians 13).

“The opposite of love is apathy, not hatred.”
– Chuck Swindoll





You'll need coffee shops and sunsets
and road trips. Airplanes and passports
and new songs and old songs,
but people more than anything else.

You will need other people
and you will need to be that
other person to someone else,
a living breathing screaming invitation
to believe better things.

-Jamie Tworkowski-



PHOTO BY VESNA TRICOVSKA

b u t t e r f l i e s a n d p e b b l e s



How is God calling you to be family to someone today?