

1 private sector or a public office. There is a lot
2 of things that we are talking about, and when we
3 leave this place for the private sectors and the
4 outreach programs, can you leave your phone number
5 somewhere so a lot of us could access that? Because
6 I think we could help each other out a lot by
7 knowing just what we have right now.

8 I am going to move on and let Steve
9 Sigrah talk about his program at this time. Steve?
10 It's all yours.

11 LAY MINISTER SIGRAH: Thank you very
12 much. (Speaks in a foreign language.) Thank you
13 very much. I am up here on behalf of my reverend.
14 Because of family matters, he has to go back home to
15 take care of.

16 While representing the church, to
17 highlight where we are here in Hawaii, I want to
18 start by saying that in 1852 in the month of August,
19 the first missionary that came to the island came
20 from Hawaii. That was Reverends Snow and White.
21 They came to Kosrae in that month of that year with
22 another two couples from Hawaii. In 1947 on the
23 schooner of Morning Star, the current Senator Akaka
24 came to Kosrae with additional missionaries, and
25 also ten years ago about he came to Kosrae to visit.

1 As soon as Christianity brought religion
2 to the Island of Kosrae where I am from, it was
3 dynamic. It changes every aspect of life because
4 earlier or before that, the islands was ruled by a
5 monarch. Every business, everything was run as he
6 wanted. But then when Christianity came, like I
7 said, things changed completely upside down. And
8 like any immigration movement, many of us moved to
9 Hawaii. While moving here, we brought along what we
10 value. Among those is religions. Religion is what
11 is the most valued social institution from where I
12 am from.

13 As a result of that, like my colleagues
14 here have mentioned, pastors are recognized or they
15 are treated with very high honor, and because of
16 their value of religion, if you have come to the
17 Island of Kosrae, on Sundays, all businesses are
18 closed, except at the hospital or police. It is
19 expected that everybody attend church on the two
20 services, one in the morning and one in the
21 afternoon.

22 Here in Hawaii, we are located, first we
23 started under the trees at Ala Wai Park, sometimes
24 at Ala Moana Park because we didn't have a
25 structure. Later on we moved to Crossroads at the

1 University, to Central Union, to Queen Emma, to
2 Nanakuli, and just this week we moved, we were
3 relocated to Pauoa Valley. Because my mind had so
4 much address to remember for my church, I forgot the
5 address, but I remember the street which is at
6 Pauoa, Kanealii (phonetic) Street. It's just across
7 from Pauoa Elementary School.

8 We, my church members, we have about 400
9 members. That is not counting kids, children. Some
10 of the problems that we are facing while here in
11 Hawaii is finding a structure, a church where we can
12 worship, and like I mentioned, sometimes it gets
13 hard because while we are getting -- finding a
14 place, we are also given time that we can only meet
15 there, and because sometimes while we are still
16 there, we are told that we have to move because
17 there is another group that has to use the
18 structure.

19 Another problem that we are facing here,
20 like I mentioned earlier about the value and the
21 work schedule we have back home, everything is
22 closed on Sunday because while we are here and do
23 work and have to comply with the times required for
24 us to work, a lot of our members are unable to
25 attend church which poses a problem.

1 Another problem that we are facing is
2 new members coming, coming to move to Hawaii. Like
3 my colleagues here have mentioned, going through
4 immigrations, finding a place to live, applying for
5 a social security number, finding a school for the
6 kids, medical, et cetera, that is probably one of
7 the difficult tasks that we are experiencing,
8 experiencing, and, yes, our church, our pastor are a
9 part of that because it is expected. When there is
10 a problem, one of the persons that you can run to is
11 the pastor of the church.

12 Therefore, we would really recommend
13 highly if possible, I think I heard if not today,
14 yesterday, it was mentioned that it would be really
15 helpful if a center can be provided where knowledge
16 and information can be provided because we all know
17 knowledge and information are powerful, and that
18 will certainly help members, Micronesia people while
19 coming here.

20 While we are here having our church and
21 service this year, we also realized and understand
22 that we have to contribute to the society,
23 especially the State of Hawaii, and yes, some years
24 ago, we had the -- the church established this work
25 group where they helped clean beaches for hope that

1 this service can pay back to the community for being
2 here and for giving their assistance helping us.

3 While we are here too, we are
4 experiencing also other denominations of churches
5 from Micronesia too. There is the questions we are
6 asking, is it good to work with them? Personally, I
7 feel that it is absolutely great (inaudible) idea
8 because it is good for the soul, for the spirit.
9 Why not? Let's do it.

10 And even still now a lot of people from
11 Kosrae are coming here especially with -- as a
12 result of what's going back home, we are
13 experiencing more of this problem which we can't
14 avoid, but we must continue to provide assistance
15 help.

16 In fact, just three weeks ago a lady
17 from Kosrae arrived here, and because of something
18 that popped up in the computer, they retained, they
19 took her to their office at the airport and then
20 later on released her holding back her passport. It
21 happened that she is living with me and that she was
22 given a day to appear back at the airport.

23 When I took her back there, she was
24 taken to their office. I asked the officer there if
25 I could come inside with her and translate for her

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1 because she didn't know English. I mean, talking
2 about problems, talking about interpretation,
3 talking about the need. Well, they told me I could
4 not, but I told them that how are they going to
5 interpret or ask questions since she didn't
6 understand English? And they said, the guy told me,
7 we'll let you know.

8 After more than an hour, the officer and
9 that lady came out and gave me a sheet to sign. In
10 the sheet, it explained to me that while in San
11 Diego, she would have to go and appear at the office
12 there. So I asked the officer, where in the world
13 did you get the San Diego? And then he told me,
14 well, I thought I heard her say that she is going to
15 San Diego, so I told him that is not true at all.
16 See, that's why I told you that I need to come along
17 with her to translate for her.

18 I mean, I am sharing you, my good
19 friends in the audience, that this is just an
20 example of problems that we are facing, and I know
21 it will continue. The girl is still waiting here.
22 The officers later told me that I needed to -- I got
23 involved in this. The officer asked me to write
24 back home or do anything that I would to provide
25 documents that will satisfy their needs in order

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1 that they will give her her passport. It is lucky
2 that she is living with me because if it was
3 somebody that doesn't have friends, relatives, I
4 don't know what will happen to her except to stay on
5 the street.

6 Lastly, I want to share and ask kindly,
7 along with the problems that I mentioned earlier and
8 I know I did mention finding a structure to have
9 services. If there is anybody in the audience that
10 knows of a place or has a place where we can end up
11 renting for our services, we would gladly accept
12 that offer. That's all that I have on the topic for
13 my time here. Thank you very much.

PASTOR LORIN: Thank you, Steve. Let me
15 try to put all of this together in two sentences. I
16 think from what we talked about, all three of us, I
17 come up with four, five important areas that we
18 could probably help and help you guys with.

19 First, if you are looking for
20 interpreters or translators, find the closest
21 Micronesian church with you and talk to the
22 minister, and then they can contact us, and then we
23 can put out in the church that you are looking for
24 an interpreter or translator. And don't forget MCN
25 and MU and MN, the other organizations that are also