

The Polynesian Model

Visiting the beautiful Hawaiian Islands is always a wonderful experience for Lola and me. The weather is ever enjoyable – even in often-rainy Hilo. The flowers are phenomenal in their color and design. The geography, with mountains, waterfalls, an ocean and a volcano blending in an unbelievable backdrop of nature's artistry, creates eternal images in the mind. The four facilities operated by Life Care on Oahu and Hawaii set the pace for long-term health care in that state, with staff members who are professional, compassionate, caring and always welcoming to visitors.

In our travels there, one of the traits of the Polynesians that I particularly enjoy is their belief in the importance of teaching the next generation the history of their families. They sit around and “talk story.” They speak with excitement, and their eyes twinkle, as they tell the younger ones about their ancestry. Their hearers sit in rapt attention, soaking up every detail. The history of these families is passed down in story form that anyone can easily understand.

Jesus taught by telling stories that even the youngest, most uneducated and least experienced could understand. Now, more than 2,000 years later, those parables are still told. Stories about a wayward son, about planting seeds, about searching for a lost coin and about showing kindness to others are timeless messages about the Kingdom of God.

Those of us who work in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have golden opportunities to hear amazing stories from the lives of those we serve. The *Life Care Leader* magazine was created in June 1986 to preserve the rich heritage of our residents, and it has faithfully chronicled accounts of heroic deeds, of loyal devotion to country, of unfathomable love, and of creative genius. There are yet many stories to be told, many to be captured in print.

And what about your life? Take time to tell your children and grandchildren about the remarkable events of your years – what God has done and is doing in and through you. Impress upon them the importance of sharing these stories with future generations, so that God's faithfulness will never be forgotten.

--Beecher Hunter