

# Hawaii Family Forum (HFF)

## MEMOS

September 17, 2001

**HFF offers our  
prayers to the  
families of the  
victims & to the  
leaders of our  
nation!**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii.

While locally governed and supported, HFF is associated with Dr. James Dobson's Focus on the Family.

As a non-profit organization, gifts to HFF are tax deductible. (And Appreciated!)

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## The American Family Mourns

Words don't come easily after the horrific and tragic events of the last week. Nor do words adequately convey the range of emotions felt in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon.

Families across America watched in horror as graphic images were replayed on the television screen. People around the world grieved with the families of the victims. Weeping, mourning, anger and disbelief characterized homes and places of worship around the nation and around the world.

The stories of family members who called home to say goodbye before they drew their last breath on this earth were simply too much for this author to bear.

The heroism of those who thwarted the terrorists on the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania has inspired a nation. So too, has the heroism of the New York City firefighters and police officers who willingly gave their very lives for the sake of others. The daily acts of heroism continue among rescue workers in New York and Washington.

Another inspiring aspect of this tragedy has been the widespread unity among the American people and among the political leadership in Washington.

Who will ever forget members of Congress standing shoulder to shoulder spontaneously burst forth in a chorus of 'God Bless America.' One hopes and prays that this unity will continue in the face of America's ongoing campaign to protect civilized people everywhere from the scourge of terrorism.

As President George W. Bush has declared, "we are at war." The implications of such a war will be felt in the months and years to come and they will impact families all across America and Hawaii.

May each of us commit to pray for the leaders of our country and for the families of the victims. May we do something tangible to lend support during these trying times (see page 2) May we hold our children tightly and make sure to make peace with our loved ones. May we never let go of the unity and resolve now so currently evident in the American family. May we resolve to not let the evil acts of terrorism destroy our American family!

# Families Helping Families

As families of the victims grieved, the American family acted quickly to help. People abandoned their own self-interest and actually stood in line to donate blood. Money has poured in from across the country, including Hawaii, to help in the relief effort.

For all our families who want to do something to 'overcome evil with good', below are some suggestions.

## **Donate Blood**

To donate blood, call 845-9966 on Oahu or (800) 372-9966 for an appointment. Blood donations are still needed for several weeks.

## **Donate Money for Victims**

### **--American Red Cross-Hawaii.**

Send checks to 4155 Diamond Head Rd., Honolulu, HI 96816. Donate on-line at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or call 800-HELP-NOW (435-7669)

**--Salvation Army-Hawaii.** Send checks to P.O. Box 620, Honolulu, HI 96809. Donate on line at [www.SalvationArmyHawaii.org](http://www.SalvationArmyHawaii.org) or call 440-1861.

**--New York State World Trade Center Relief Fund.** Send checks to P.O. Box 5028, Albany, NY 12205. Call 800-801-8092.

### **--Reach out to your Arab-American or Muslim Neighbors.**

Take the lead in fighting the ugly backlash being felt by some in the Arab-American and Islamic communities. Thankfully, Hawaii has led the way with the Islamic Society of Hawaii reporting over 1000 calls of support from the people of Hawaii.

# Where Do We Go From Here? What is a Just Response?

How can we protect the civilized world from terrorism without causing the same kind of innocent civilian casualties caused in airplanes and buildings on September 11?

How can we simultaneously seek justice, safety and peace? The following excerpt from Chuck Colson's September 12 BreakPoint commentary provides an interesting perspective.

"Terrorism, the warfare of the new century, is engaged in for the specific purpose of destabilizing free societies. The terrorists succeed if free people cower in fear and begin to restrict their treasured freedom and liberties. We should never succumb to terrorist-inspired fear. We can never allow such people to win. Instead, we must renew our commitment to the most fundamental liberties and to the rule of law.

And we must support our government in its response. God established government to preserve order by punishing evil and seeking justice. Without this restraint on human sinfulness, the strong will prey on the weak, and seek to impose their will on others. What is true in relations between individuals is also true in relations between nations. As St. Augustine wrote 1600 years ago, loving God and our neighbor may require using force against aggression.

And this brings me back to yesterday's events. Christians believe that government has a special duty to punish those who, in effect, invaded our soil and committed these dastardly acts. But we must do so in a just manner. As Augustine's Just War theory teaches, any military action must have a reasonable chance of success. In our context, that means being fairly certain as to the identity of the perpetrators. We can't simply strike out for the sake of "doing something" or in a blind rage.

We need to also make sure that our targets are military ones. Civilians, even those who applaud the terrorists' actions, should never be targeted. Finally, our response should be proportionate. After an event such as yesterday's, we are understandably tempted to lash out with every weapon in our arsenal. But we must be careful not to let our response to the harm we have suffered lead us to commit an even greater harm -- something that our technological superiority makes possible.

But quickly respond we must, lest the world -- and more importantly would-be terrorists view us as a paper tiger. We either respond appropriately -- with the sword -- or invite more of the same."

Whether or not you agree with Chuck Colson, one thing we can all agree upon is our commitment to pray for the grieving and for our leaders.