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## The Lemanu-Talauega Administration Continues its Annual Gift-Giving

*“The gifts we present today are small tokens from the government, and are only a mere fraction of what you all have contributed to the success of our territory.”*



On Wednesday, December 7th, Honorable Lemanu and First Lady Ella Mauga, and Honorable Lt. Governor Talauega and Good Lady Marian Ale delivered Christmas gifts to the residents of Hope House in Fatu O Aiga. Invocation and benediction was performed by Rev. Mageo Patolo Mageo and hymns were sung by the Department of Human and Social Services under the leadership of Director Muavaefaatasi John Suisala. Others in attendance were Bishop Peter Hugh Brown, Honorable Representative Larry Sanitua, and several cabinet members.

“This is the only facility in American Samoa that provides this service,” stated Governor Lemanu in his special remarks. He continued, “We acknowledge the hard work of the enduring heroes

who care for the men and women who have been instrumental in the government and the community. The residents of Hope House continue to shape our Territory through their guidance and prayers. The gifts we present today are small tokens from the government, and are only a mere fraction of what you all have contributed to the success of our territory.”

Bishop Brown and Honorable Sanitoa also presented appreciation gifts to Governor Lemanu on behalf of the Diocese Samoa Pago Pago. The appreciation message states:

*“With gratitude and sincere appreciation of your outstanding leadership and service to the people and the Territory of American Samoa. We are profoundly grateful for your tremendous support of Hope House.”*



The gift giving was concluded by several dances by our Hope House residents.

Shortly after the presentation of gifts at Hope House, Governor Lemanu and Lt. Governor Talauega and their wives made their way to the Tafuna Correctional Facility. Invocation and benediction was performed by Rev. Al Tunupopo and hymns were sung by the TCF Special Choir.



“Let this not be your permanent home,” remarked Governor Lemanu. He continued, “Use this time to reflect on the decisions made, and work towards a better future. Just because you are in here, does not mean you cannot be of use. You hold the knowledge and wisdom to better our community and our Territory. You need to believe in yourself the way we believe that you have a greater purpose in this life. You have the gifts from God to serve your family, village, and church, but you cannot fulfill that duty from here. Work with your lawyers to access all the aid you can be provided to properly be released and start anew.”

A luncheon was provided to all TCF inmates to conclude their visit.

The last stop was made at the Juvenile Detention Center where gifts, school bags, and lunch was also provided.

On Thursday, December 8th, Governor Lemanu and First Lady Ella Mauga, and Good Lady Marian Ale presented Christmas gifts and meals to all in-patients, patrons, dialysis patients, and staff.

“May the joy and love of Christmas and the blessings of Christ’s infinite grace fill our lives, our families, our community, and our beloved Territory this season and always,” remarked Governor Lemanu.

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