

Return To Sender – Stan Hankins

I'm beginning to know what they mean with the exclamation, "Going Postal". I think I'm about to.

Let's face it, the Post Office has a simple mission. Get something from point A to point B. Not counting sending 300 of my newsletters quarterly, routinely, I send expense reports and bundled receipts to the Atlanta office. I simply send it first class. Upselling has become an art form in the Postal profession. Uniformed tellers routinely offer, "Express?", "Priority?". I repeat, "Just first class, thanks".

Let's think about this: aren't they supposed to get it there in a timely mode? First class doesn't mean second class! Then I'm asked if I want delivery confirmation. Why? Can't you trust them to get it there without it? {Am I starting to sound like Andy Rooney?}

A few months ago a stone-faced teller reminded me when I declined her gracious offer of Express and Priority, that first class was quote, "4-6 days, no guarantee". Coyly, I fired back, "You don't guarantee your work?" She failed to see the humor in the comment.

Now the clincher... In the downtown Honolulu Post Office across from historic Iolani Palace, I run the gauntlet to secure a metered parking space for my truck, only to find myself locked out of P.O. Box 1533. I had previously paid my "Box Rent Due" utilizing the "No Postage Necessary" envelope conveniently provided. Long story made short, someone lost my payment...and it wasn't moi. When I pointed out to the Supervisor the irony of the Post Office losing its own mail, he too, failed to see the levity in the moment.

Let me state the premise of this tirade. If you are in business, you should act like it. There is a minimum level of competence and performance. Sound reasonable?

It's time to start preaching. There is a Christian ethic. We are supposed to act like it. Granted, we are saved by faith, and sanctified by faith. Yet, if we have new life in Christ, it ought to look different than when we were dead in sin! There is a standard of performance for professors of faith {Js 2:26}. Paul wrote, "Let him who steals, steal no longer". Peter chided, "Put aside all silliness and filthy talk." Jesus was more succinct, "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect." Any part of that we don't understand?

You don't hear many preachers talk like that, anymore.

I do.