

Action Precedes Motivation

The 2012 TKFI Instructor's Gasshuku at Camp Erdman, Hawaii generated a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and momentum among the participants. The week of intense training whether at the beach, the pavilion, the club house, or the hexagon, was energizing and spirit building. Whether training in sand and ocean waves, on grass and asphalt, or concrete and dirt, the experience was like none before. From running to the beach at 6:30 am, setting table for meals, group singing at the dining room, sweeping the floor and emptying trash, lining up for Soke's entrance to the dining hall, and cleaning the cabin for inspection, Soke had lessons upon lessons for us. From learning new kata, reviewing basics and fundamentals, practicing kumite drills and self defense techniques, emerged the repetitive lessons on etiquette, commitment, discipline, self awareness, respect, humility, integrity, dedication, and service. For some, these lessons were taken seriously and internalized, for others the words were readily taken in but slow to absorb.

Then there was the camp fire at the beach, the haiku at dusk, the hike to the waterfall, the extravaganza at the Polynesian Cultural Center, the visit to Soke's home, and the shopping at Old Haleiwa town. Regardless of where we were, Soke had lessons awaiting us at every turn. Because all camp members, training or non-training, live, work and train together 24/7, the group developed strong bonds and cohesiveness. Every member reached out to one another and showed concerns for their team members and cabin mates. It was of no surprise that at the end of camp everyone was enveloped with a sense of togetherness as new friendships were made and old ones renewed. Testimonials from individual members attested to the enriched experience they had and the good times they shared that they vowed to keep up their enthusiasm, to support our dojo and TKFI, and return for more next year.

Now it has been more than a month since the Gasshuku, it is a good time to ask ourselves if the fire that burnt within our hearts was still glowing bright, to ask if we have stood up and lead with a gentle heart, to offer service for the common good, to promote karate-do, and to contribute to the growth of TKFI. In other words, do we still have the motivation to take action, have we taken the initiative to take part and contribute, have we anticipated action and follow through with responsible deed?

As future leaders of TKFI and traditional karate-do, the new generation of karate-ka has responsibilities. So, regardless of how much, or little, we can contribute, the motivation is the keyhole and the action is the key. The keyhole is the opportunity for the key to exert its influence. As we look inward for answers, be proactive and undertake. For therein lies the answer and reward to our commitment to the "Way of Karate", the way of life we all live and love.