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Keep the faith and keep on giving

Experts say a healthy economy needs robust commerce

By Michelle Tucker
CFP®, JD, CPA/PFS

It was a difficult year in 2008. Many of us suffered economic loss, and those of us who did not are feeling the suffering of others all around. The more that we hear and read about loss, the more we fear of worse to come.

What happened was that the flaws in our system revealed themselves. In our system, we have tremendous faith in others. We give the benefit of the doubt. We want to believe anything is achievable, and we begin to believe we can achieve anything.

If all that we want to achieve is to have more, and we start to believe we can have more and more, and we start to believe we deserve more and more, and we lose sight of the importance of giving back, then it is pay-back time.

All getting and no giving, or immediate getting and deferred giving — that has come to a halt. We need to excise the excess, cut out the fat and get back to basics.

But, let's not throw the baby out with the bath water. Financial excess is a problem that we acknowledge and correct, leaving intact the virtues of our core. I, for one, do not



To help a down economy grow, we need to still have to have a robust, but responsible, exchange of goods and services.

believe the problem goes to the core. Moreover, it would be a mistake to lose faith in the core, for that would create a much different problem — lack of faith and trust in one another.

Let's remember what good has come from our exceptional optimism, what a prosperous country we are and how we can reinvent ourselves in our land of opportunity.

The hype is over. Hype is characterized by a peak of inflated expectations, followed by a trough of disillusionment. After that comes a slope of enlightenment, which leads to a plateau of productivity.

I believe we will return to the level plateau of productivity. The Honolulu Advertiser

ty quickly if we can keep the faith and trust in one another, instead of freezing up with fear, which is itself irrational.

Shopping has gotten a bad rap, in my view. Certainly, we can't be buying things we don't need and can't afford, and the number of storage facilities around town is testimony to our guilt of that. But hoarding is equally selfish and, what's more, it's self defeating. If you hoard all that you have, you will still run out. None of us can have all that we could if we stop the flow of trust. We will run out if we stop our effort, our labor and our hard work. Yet, there must be someone on the receiving end

of our efforts for them to pay off. Keep rewarding the work of others, and your work will be rewarded as well.

By shopping, we are sharing. A healthy economy needs a healthy and robust exchange of goods and services. The Amish all join together to build a house for one of their neighbors, knowing that if they need a house built for themselves, the effort will be returned. They share a faith in each other; they know that if they help, the help will be returned.

Let's keep the faith and keep on giving. It is the only way.



MICHELLE TUCKER Bio

Michelle Tucker is a Certified Financial Planner™, an attorney and a certified public accountant/Personal Financial Specialist. She is the first attorney in Hawaii to be certified by the American Bar Association (ABA) accredited Estate Law Specialist Board, Inc. as an estate planning law specialist, and is so certified by the Supreme Court of Hawaii. The Supreme Court of Hawaii grants Hawaii certification only to lawyers in good standing who have successfully completed a specialty program accredited by the ABA.

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