

**Report from the week of the inaugural service:
Honolulu International Christian Church!**

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

As I imagined what my first week would be like in the Honolulu International Christian Church, I envisioned sharing my faith with a ton of people, having memorable bonding times with the disciples, an incredible first service, a faith building special missions contribution, and of course, most importantly a lot of fun!

Upon landing on Monday, June 2nd, we were greeted by our warm brothers and sisters from the Honolulu International Christian Church with the trademark of the Islands, Hawaiian lei's. We then traveled to Ala Moana Shopping Center where Chris Teves generously treated the entire mission team to lunch. After an afternoon of zzzz's on a full stomach we traveled to Aiea for an incredible barbeque at Jodi and U'i Tyrell's home. After nine months in the Los Angeles, attending a barbeque with local food was especially satisfying for me!

Waking up early the next morning, June 3rd, we set off for our hike up the steep steps of a beautiful mountain called Diamond Head. After 30 minutes, a lot of sweat, and sore calf muscles we finally arrived at the top. As we looked out over the city we were blown away as we saw the vast number of buildings, cars, homes, and people that were visible. I reminded the group that we looked out at a lost city whose only hope was Jesus Christ. Each of us prayed fervently for the city and for open hearts that would receive the gospel message! We capped off our mountain top experience with the song, Hard Fighting Soliders! After our descent from the mountain we made a quick stop at Kinko's to print out invitations for Church on Sunday and quickly made our way over to the University of Hawaii at Manoa to share our faith. With each disciple's heart burning with excitement, we quickly canvassed the campus and shared our message of Jesus Christ crucified! The response was amazing as we all quickly racked up a list of phone numbers of people who were interested in our message as well as attending our inaugural service. As the sisters departed for a good night's rest, the brothers and I capped off our day with a 10:00 p.m. swim at the warm Waikiki Beach.

After a good nights sleep, on June 4th, we drove to the airport to greet our guests, Mike Underhill and Kip and Elena McKean, all visiting from the City of Angles International Christian Church. We then went to the Ala Moana shopping center to share the gospel message. Upon sharing with a number of shoppers, we were quickly spotted and asked to leave by the mall's security guards and warned not to share our faith. It reminded me of the scripture found in **II Timothy 3:12 "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."** After an eventful day, Joan and I sat down for dinner with Kip and Elena at a local favorite, Sam Choy's. We rejoiced together at the people of

Hawaii's positive response to the message of Jesus. God gave both couples a treat as we witnessed beautiful fire works on our way back to our hotels. God is truly remarkable!

On Thursday, June 5th, the mission team continued to spread the message on the University of Hawaii's campus. Kip and I met with Chris Teves for an incredible lunch buffet at a local Hotel for a time of mutual encouragement through the word of God! That night Joan and I as well as the McKeens met with Joe and Mary Santos for a dinner and a Bible study. Both the Santos and we were excited as our hearts were once again knitted together in our unified vision to win the Islands for Christ!

Friday, June 6th, was a fun day for the mission team as they made their way to the beach. Joan and I as well as the McKeens' continued to meet together with the couples to strengthen them in their faith. That night at devotional, Kip delivered a powerful message from the book of Nehemiah entitled, "The Walls or Broken down." We were challenged to survey the walls in the Pacific Rim as they had been, "Broken Down". He then gave us the charge to evangelize the Pacific Rim, or as Nehemiah would put it, our part of the wall. After incredible fellowship and tasty doughnuts we headed off to bed.

Upon awaking on Saturday, June 7th we headed to the airport to greet our incoming guests, Evan and Kelly Bartholomew and Robbie and Linda Robinson from our sister Church the Hilo International Church of Christ. We then used the remainder of our day to strengthen the brethren from Hilo as well as pass out the remaining invitations of the 400 we printed, in order to invite people to our inaugural service. We then hit the sack with anticipation of an incredible service that next day.

Sunday, June 8th, the day of our first service together was finally here. The fellowship was buzzing as there were 65 in attendance. The singing was electric in preparation for the sermon. I delivered a message entitled, "Can These Bones Live" taken from Ezekiel 37. We then took up our special mission contribution. Having a goal of \$10,000 for the Honolulu Church, we took up a total collection of \$23,700 dollars which included a generous gift from the Hilo Church of Christ of \$7100 dollars in which we will be forever grateful. Service ended with a powerful song and roaring applause as we closed out our Inaugural service!

As I reflect back on my week I am convinced that God can do immeasurably more than all I ask or imagine according to his power at work in us! Honolulu Church let us never forget that we serve a powerful God!

Aloha,

Lead Evangelist
Kyle Bartholomew