



CULTURE MATTERS

We have spent much time in prayer regarding how we can effectively communicate all of the wonderful things that GOD is doing here. It can feel super challenging at times, because we feel it necessary to both update you on our current position here, but also to educate you on the culture of Hawai'i as well. Moving forward, please look for the section titled, "Culture Matters", to reference important segments we want you to keep in mind when praying for us.

To kick things off, we want you to take note of the fact that Hawaii is a melting pot for cultural influences from around the world. Each of the *many* nationalities that are represented in Hawaii have their own culture; but together, all of these nationalities represent the culture of Hawai'i. Taking this into consideration is important because by doing so, you will understand that we are constantly learning new things about the people we are ministering to, especially in a place with so much cultural diversity. We often have to alter our planning and approach, just to ensure that we are sensitive to not jeopardize opportunities by moving too fast or perhaps coming across too strongly.

BREAKOUT

We started a youth program in December that is now known as, *Breakout*; which is where we gather students for a time of games, food and devotion.

At our first event, we had twelve youth in attendance, and our second we had seventeen! Unfortunately, we have been unable to gather since the start of the COVID-19 restrictions, but are looking forward to picking back up where we left off.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Over the last several months, we have been praying over some opportunities that God has presented us with to potentially secure a more permanent meeting space. The challenges of COVID have hindered our ability to explore these opportunities in more depth. We ask that you please join us in prayer at 8:08 everyday for this request specifically.

FOLLOW US:

 @REACHING808

 @REFLECTION_CHURCH

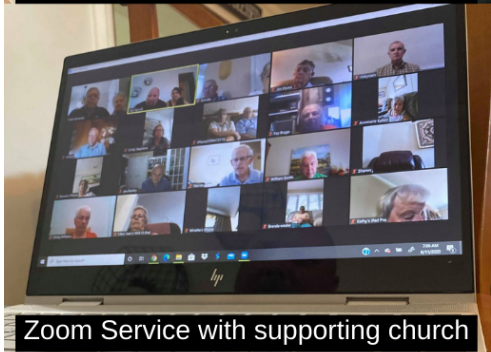
****If you prefer to receive updates by snail-mail, and/or, you are not already on our email list, please notify us right away. All future updates will be sent virtually.****



Zoom Bible Study



Delivering Backpacks and Supplies



Zoom Service with supporting church

COVID-19

Hawai'i restrictions are undoubtedly some of the strictest in the nation. We have spent much of the last 3 months at home in a mandatory stay/safer-at-home-order. Much like many churches across the globe, we are faced with a difficult time trying to navigate a new normal. We have not been able to have in-person gatherings, mostly because we do not have our own building. We currently rent space from a City and County facility, which has been closed due to COVID, and we have not been given any information as to when it will reopen and be available to us again.

The good news is that we remain connected to our people. We continue to meet for Bible Study and for Sunday morning services via Zoom Conferencing. We also spend a lot of time together just "hanging out" on Zoom. On the few occasions that our state has allowed us to gather more than 5-10 people at a time, we have come together for Bible study and fellowship. We try to physically stay in front of our people by doing random drop off's as often as we can. We have come up with games and supplies and taken them to families to host their own game nights at home. We've done blessing drop off's such as toilet paper, baked goods, mothers/fathers day gifts, backpacks with school supplies, etc. God is still working and we are just thankful to be used by Him.

Over the last few months, we have also enjoyed meeting with many of you over Zoom. It is exciting to be able to reconnect personally and share what God is doing through all of us together.

LOCATION

We launched in August 2019 and saw some really encouraging months thereafter. We initially began meeting at the YWCA, but quickly realized that our budget would not allow us to resume this location on a long-term basis. We were blessed to find a temporary meeting space that is much more feasible, however, we have found that we struggle with presentation in this new space. The cost of equipment & shipping is very high, and we just don't have enough funding to get all that we need, and also ensure the stability of our account to keep us from having to fundraise our salary once again.

We proceed very cautiously with our account, and we trust that God will provide through His people. As of right now, we personally fund all of our church expenses through our salary outside of small offerings received. We are working with our congregation to educate and teach on tithing, but again, it is a difficult subject to teach in our culture. Thank you to all of our supporters who have faithfully kept us here and continue to help us stay. Thank you to all of our prayer warriors. You are a vital part of our ministry and we are grateful to serve alongside you.

ALOHA KE AKUA,
CARL, CYNTHIA, NOA, KEOLA, LEILANI