

THE McCoys to Hawaii
Baptist International Missions, Inc/PO Box 9/Harrison, TN 37341
4th Quarter Prayer Letter 2023

Psalm 25:5 "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day."
Aloha & Mahalo, in the name of our Lord Jesus.

We want to thank you all for the blessing of prayers and support.

We have been very busy and the Lord has given us the energy and unction to remain faithful. For our Christmas outreach, we made Christmas candy, ordered some tracts, and had a stamp made with the church information. We made up gift bags and planned to go house to house and hand them out. In Hawaii, vendors and food trucks sell on the roadside, so as the Lord led, we made a couple of huge signs and set up a table on the side of the road inviting everyone to come and get their free Christmas bag. We also delivered bags to some of the local businesses. We were able to share the Lord with many folks and let them know about our church services.

We have been praying about a few things that I think will be good for the work. One of those is buying a PA system and a tent and have several preaching services a month along the side of the road. The island is so open to roadside vendors, and this is would be a big step in enhancing our evangelism efforts.

As we have been getting out in this area talking to folks, and researching the spiritual condition and cultural climate we have found out some very interesting things that are helpful. Some of which we already were inclined to believe but other things not so much. The spiritual condition of "Christian" churches is very non biblical and liberal. If the religious groups do meet regular it is only one service a week, month, or even a quarter. The music is very worldly with no significant biblical worship qualities. The preaching is very well educated and studied but has no real spiritually sustaining, life changing meat and most times leaves its people unfulfilled and empty. Although we have only seen this first hand by way of research. Most of what I am addressing is from what others have that come to Lighthouse Baptist Church as a result of their disenchantment have told us. As I have said before we are the only KJB preaching church on the North Shore and there is no other Autonomous work as well. These two factors are most likely the root of the problem. That being said we didn't come here to fix the so called Christian churches, we came to plant and establish a KJB preaching, soul winning, biblical local church. This endeavor will keep us busy enough without concerning ourselves with others business. As I said we only acquired this knowledge to get an idea of the spiritual climate of this area. One thing that did surprise us is the percentage of homelessness here on the North Shore considering its size. Hawaii being one of the highest ranking places for crystal meth has surely added to this epidemic. A high percentage of these homeless have been flown here from the mainland and very few are actually from here. The entire island and many of its beaches are made up of homeless encampments which is very surprising when you think about Hawaii. When all things are considered there is much work to be done before the Lord calls us home.

One thing we really need you folks to pray about for is the expense of the housing, which is not extravagant in the least. When I was seeking the Lords will about coming here I also looked at the cost of living and everything seemed to be pretty much lateral financially. The North Shore area is not only expensive but it is very hard to find rentals. I have talked to a couple of other missionaries on the island and they seem to have the same problem, one of which is paying \$12,000 per month. Although we are only paying \$3,500 plus \$400 for utilities, based on the amount of monthly support we received since arriving, the cost of our current rental is almost 90% of our total monthly support. Lisa has taken on a full time teaching job and I am up before 3am in order to get prayer and Bible time with the Lord before heading to a part time job I have picked up. In a previous prayer letter we shared with you how the Lord brought us to this house, with the garage that we are able to hold our church services and our next door neighbors who had been praying for a missionary to come. We are now facing the difficult decision of trying to afford this rental for another year or move somewhere cheaper but in a different town. If we move to another town, that would mean we would need to find another place in Waialua to hold services. We would need to travel here to hold them, and we would not be a part of the community the Lord has called us to reach. This is heartbreaking to us, but we do not have many options. We are praying that some of our faithful supporting churches that are able, would consider a small bump in monthly support. If each one gave just a little more, this would be a tremendous help to us, and may allow us to stay at our current location in Waialua. I really don't like asking this as some have sent us extra love offerings since our start here last year, which have been a tremendous help but we are in a situation which is leaving us with little alternative. The only other option is to shut things down, go back on deputation, and return after we have raised more monthly support. I believe that would create more problems than it would solutions.

We ask for your prayers in the Lord's provision, wisdom in the decisions before us, and direction as to what he would have us do.

In Christ,
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