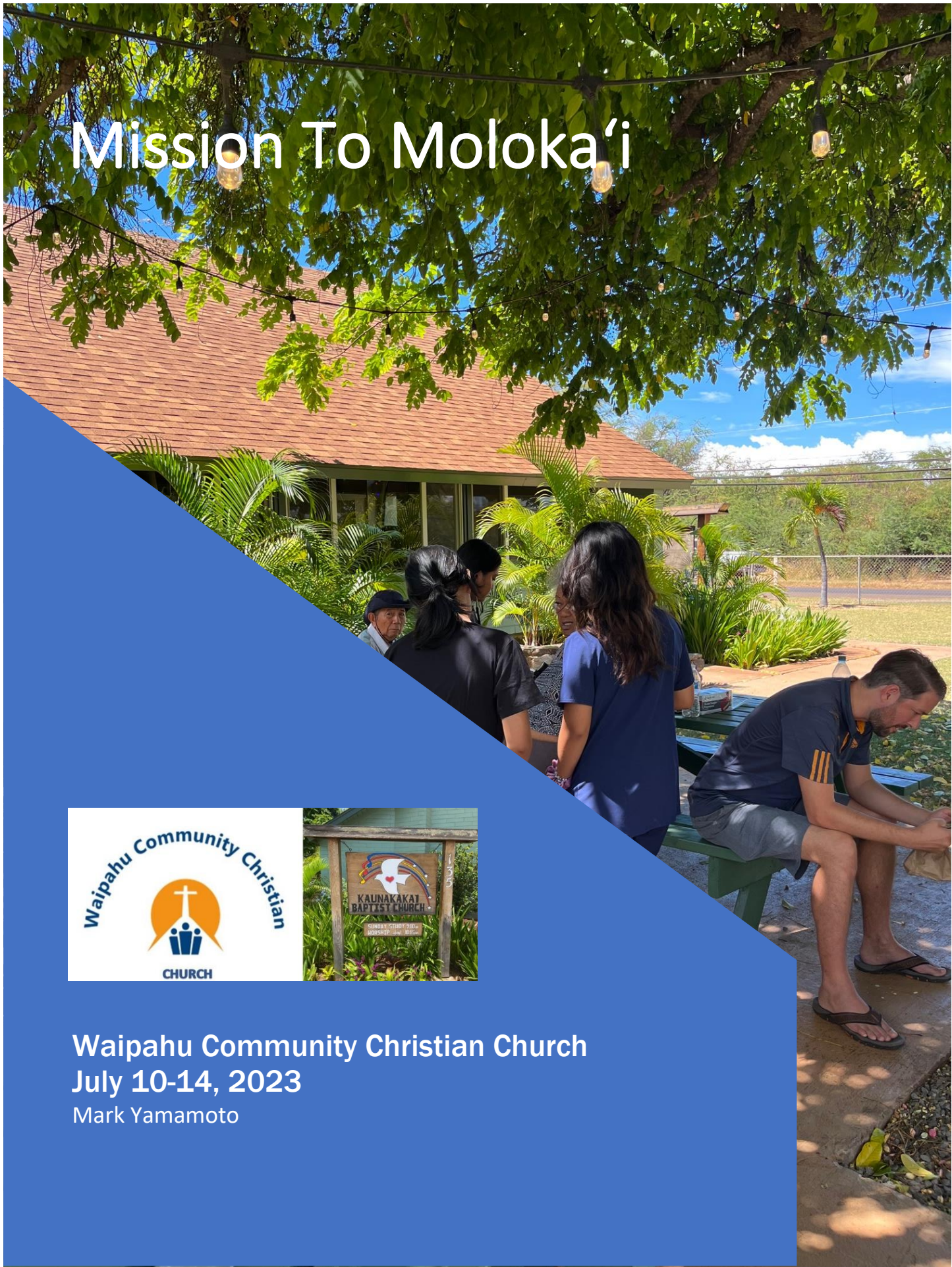


Mission To Moloka'i



Waipahu Community Christian Church
July 10-14, 2023
Mark Yamamoto



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

Beginnings

Waipahu Community Christian Church has a food distribution ministry with Aloha Harvest. Food is given to the community on or about the second and fourth Thursday of every month. Once, as Brother JP and I were headed back to church after delivering food to a few elderly, we began talking about missions.

JP: “Mark, you know we’ve been doing a lot of missions to the Philippines. We should think about other places.”

Me: “I know... I’ve been thinking about some place closer to home like a neighbor island. Maybe like Moloka’i. I think we have a sister church in Kaunakakai.”

And that was the conception of this mission. Maybe the Holy Spirit put that idea in my pea-sized cranium. Well, that was in the summer or fall of 2022. What really got the ball rolling was the fortuitous meeting of Pastor Hanale, his wife Zhan, and brother Lanakila of Kaunakakai Baptist Church at the Annual HPBC meeting last November. After greeting these wonderful people, I mustered up the courage to ask them if they were interested in partnering in a mission. Initial thoughts: Some of our folks would go over to Moloka’i and work with Kaunakakai Baptist to bless the community there. To which they were in full agreement. Is God showing His favor upon this seedling of a plan?

Why Molokai?

- **MOLOKAI IS OUR JUDEA**
 - JUST A SHORT PLANE RIDE OVER
 - *“BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH.”*
- **WE HAVE A SISTER CHURCH ON MOLOKAI, KAUNAKAKAI BAPTIST CHURCH. LET’S HELP THEM OUT.**
- **OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHURCH YOUTH TO BE ON MISSION**



My Initial Planning

After the holidays and the post-holiday malaise wore off, I finally got around to start planning the mission.

Step 1: Develop a plan

Research Moloka'i community needs based upon these drivers:

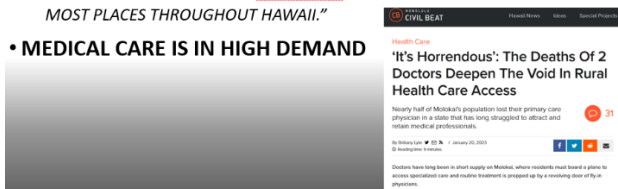
- Health care availability – lack of physicians on island
- Poor economy coupled with high cost of food
- Recent uptick in crime
- Lack of spiritual connection (found out this was probably not true)

Why Molokai?

- **MOLOKAI IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPOVERISHED LOCATIONS IN HAWAII**

- **UNEMPLOYMENT IS AROUND 3.6% COMPARED TO 3.1% ON OAHU**
- **MEDIAN INCOME PER HOUSEHOLD IS AROUND \$50K (3 PER HOUSEHOLD)**
- **ABOUT ONE FIFTH OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW POVERTY LEVEL**
- *"DESPITE ITS ISOLATED LOCATION AND SMALL POPULATION OF JUST 376, THE VIOLENT CRIME AVERAGE IN MAUNALOA IS 77 OUT OF 100 – HIGHER THAN MOST PLACES THROUGHOUT HAWAII."*

- **MEDICAL CARE IS IN HIGH DEMAND**



Maybe I'd better begin praying for the plan! Some thoughts started swirling around in my head...

Initial goals:

- Provide non-perishable food – partner with Aloha Harvest
- Minister to the people of Moloka'i – provide Bibles and tracts
- Free medical assessments
- Help Kaunakakai Baptist Church with any light repairs or painting
- Kanikapila worship night
- Note: Our ukulele ministry has been practicing Hawai'iian songs, especially a few about Moloka'i:

Ho'onani I Ka Makua Mau (Doxology)

Kanaka Waiwai (a song about the rich young man's encounter with Jesus)

E Hihiwai

Wahine Ilikea

Moloka'i Slide

Hawai'i Aloha

Step 2: Develop budget/estimated cost, resources and personnel requirements, target date of mission

Pray for the budget!

I found there to be many online resources available to estimate the costs for mission supplies.

CVS, Walmart and Grainger have online catalogues for pricing and availability. Choosing an airline was easy: Other than chartered small planes, only Mokulele Airlines offers roundtrip service to and from Moloka'i. Round trip airfare is about \$220/person plus checked baggage fee of about \$40/person. Alamo also seems to be the preferred provider for ground transportation rental on Moloka'i. Per diem cost for meals – I figured about \$30/day/person. The highest cost would be housing accommodations. Holy smokes! Hotel Moloka'i's kamaaina (Hawai'i resident) rate for a double occupancy room is about \$238/night. I targeted mid-summer for the mission, as I did not want to conflict schedule with WCCC's VBS (July 24-July 29). Initial estimates for 5 days duration came in at a little over \$1150/person plus cost of supplies and shipping.

Step 3: Critical path: Recruit volunteers, obtain church approval, set date/duration

Pray for volunteers!

Recruiting volunteers without schedule conflicts (work, family vacations) proved to be key. I was able to recruit 5 volunteers plus myself – 3 young adults, and 2 teens. All volunteers were young ladies and all on our worship team. Guess who ended up being the chaperon and chauffeur? My daughter is a recently certified RN and she would need to be in charge of medical assessments. She may have schedule conflicts though (turns out she didn't!). There's a possibility we could partner with the Hawai'i Pacific University Student Nursing Association for their annual mission. I admit to be a little discouraged there were no other adult volunteers from our church, especially men.

Step 4: Brainstorm with Pastor Hanale and Kaunakakai Baptist leaders/stakeholders

Should have been Step 1, you think? We settled on the week of July 10 – July 14 and held a few Zoom meetings.

Final Plans

Pray that God reveals His plan! (and we can be flexible and willing to follow).

- No need for the food distribution – Moloka'i has an (over)abundance of subsidy and assistance for food.
- Light repairs or painting at the church? The church is in pretty good shape, actually.
- Need to be sensitive to overzealous evangelism – recent events have created some bad feelings about "Christians" within the community.
- Pastor Hanale's input: "Just love on people". Note: This was the key.
- BUT, we prayed with people as the need presented itself.
- Okay for Bibles and tracts though.
- Open to the idea of a short training night to the church on the 3 Circles Evangelism strategy.
- Very on board with the idea for free medical assessments and open wound first aid.
- How about kupuna yard cleanup? Sure.
- How about a free car wash for the community? Certainly.

- One day to tour the island to learn more about Moloka'i and its background. Yes, our team needs to learn.
- Kanikapila/Worship Night – OKAY!
- As it turned out, HPU nursing student and Student Nursing Association head, Jennifer Bandy and her husband Justin joined us on the mission.

Jennifer also was able to recruit Dr. Joy Bliss to join us on the first day of medical assessments. Jennifer is also a trained cosmetologist, so she offered haircuts on the first day of assessments – keep that in mind. So our entire group for the week was 8 who managed to all fit in the 7-passenger van. And don't worry about housing accommodations, there's a 3-bedroom house that will be fine for everyone. My unspoken reaction: Uhh, maybe we'll still need another room or two (me of little faith).

Flyer distributed:



Putting Rubber to the Road – The Mission

God must have been shining His favor upon this mission once His plans were put in place. Those of us who had concerns about work schedule had these conflicts resolved in time to make airline reservations. All supplies arrived on time as well as those items shipped either directly or

through the local air freight service, Kamaka Air Cargo. Big shout out to them: Kamaka provides same day service sent directly to the destination address. For two boxes under 50 lbs, they charged \$33.50. Tracts were ordered through Lifeway but they did not have the large print paperback Bibles I wanted in stock. I have Amazon Prime and was able to order them and have them delivered to Moloka'i with free shipping. NAMB provided the free 3 Circles Evangelism kit.

Our budget for this mission was \$8000, which included a generous donation from HPBC. Mahalo! When we tallied the actuals, we came well under budget. Praise Jesus!

Molokai Mission Trip	
Expenses to date	
Description	Amount
Airfare Round Trip - Angel, Raychel, Chereen, Mark, Ten	\$ 1,090.10
Airfare Round Trip - Kuulei	\$ 218.00
Baggage HNL-MKK Angel, Raychel, Chereen, Mark, Ten	\$ 100.00
Baggage HNL-MKK Kuulei	\$ 20.00
Baggage MKK-HNL Angel, Raychel, Chereen, Mark, Ten	\$ 100.00
Dr. Bliss Airfare Round Trip	\$ 218.00
Dr. Bliss Hotel Molokai (one night)	\$ 238.69
7-Passenger Van Rental - 5 days	\$ 1,078.13
80 Ea. Paperback NIV Large Print Bibles	\$ 499.20
250 Ea. Bible Tracts	\$ 52.88
CVS Medical Supplies	\$ 217.74
Grainger Medical Supplies	\$ 236.52
Walmart Hand Sanitizer	\$ 10.30
Walmart Car Wash Supplies	\$ 90.90
Air Cargo	\$ 33.50
Gasoline 7/14/23	\$ 57.47
Molokai Burger 7/10/23 - single lunch	\$ 15.18
Manae Goods N Grindz 7/13/24 (lunch for group + Pastor and famiy)	\$ 245.44
Molokai Pizza Café 7/11/23 - 3 large pizzas	\$ 62.50
Molokai Burger 7/14/23 - lunch for 5	\$ 82.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,666.55

Mokulele Airlines is also very gracious when it comes to check-in and customer service. They take a "no problem" approach. I didn't have to worry about my guitar and the girls' ukulele arriving safe and sound.

There was no need for concern about the house – it was spacious and fit all eight of us comfortably. It was also well-stocked with utensils and a fully functional kitchen. We were able to cut some costs by purchasing groceries and preparing a few meals there. The house was purchased by Kahu Jonah Kaauwai, who is such a gracious brother. He made sure we were comfortable and showed us all the features of the house. He has one main rule: Leave your shoes and religion at the door. His house (Hale Pule Ka Wai Ola – the prayer house of the Living Water) is meant for retreats, refreshing, and missions by anyone of any denomination. God's Aloha shines through this man.



Kahu Jonah Kaauwai and the Team

We carried out the mission according to the itinerary:

Day 1 – Monday, 10 July

We arrived, got settled, did some grocery shopping and inventoried the supplies. Everything arrived in great shape. We were greeted with open arms by Pastor Hanale and Sister Zhan. Later, we would find out that the Lindos have fourteen grandchildren, three of whom have been adopted. When we arrived at Kaunakakai Baptist Church, a few of the children ran up to us and gave us each a hug. God’s Aloha also shines through the Lindos.

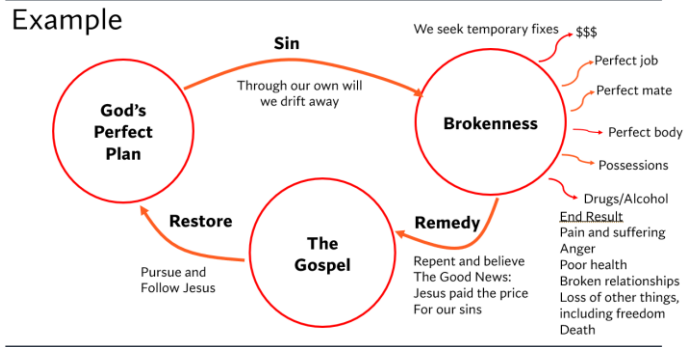


We're here!



Zhan and Hanale

That evening, I gave a presentation of the 3 Circles Evangelism strategy and tailored it to my perceived culture in Moloka’i: It’s more about aloha and relationships rather than a strategy. As mentioned, I think people are on high alert given recent incidents on the island. It also seemed that the overarching message of “turning ordinary conversations into a gospel conversation” was well-received and fits in with the relationship-driven culture of Moloka’i. After the presentation, we paired and did a role-playing exercise. It was light on the back of the napkin diagram, heavy on the conversation with aloha - Moloka’i style.



3 Circles Presentation

Then came a time of fellowship and a tasty, filling dinner with the good people of Kaunakakai Baptist Church.

Day 2 – Tuesday, 11 July

Arrived at KBC and got settled for the medical assessments. The only hiccup was that the glucometers did not come with test strips. Turns out there is a pharmacy nearby to the church. After about a 30-minute wait, we had approval to purchase the strips. The folks at Moloka'i Drugs are wonderful people, full of aloha like all the people we encountered on this mission. Once again, we praise the Lord for His hand on this mission. I think the team gave about a dozen assessments total. This included full vitals check: Blood pressure, temperature, heart and respiratory rate, O2 saturation, as well as reflexes, full body check (lymph nodes, thyroid gland, pupils, cranial nerves, nasal patency, lung and heart auditory, signs of edema, circulation), and blood glucose check. Ku'ulei also educated clients about hypertension, thyroid issues and diabetes. It didn't seem like anyone needed open wound treatment. Mahalo to Dr. Joy Bliss who came to observe and brought with her checklist copies. This was a good training opportunity for the four young ladies heading to college to study nursing.



Remember the last minute addition of the haircuts to the itinerary? The haircuts were one of the highlight of the mission. Moloka'i has 3 hair stylists, and they're booked for months. Jennifer had such a good rapport with the people, both men and women, whose hair she cut. She gave about 10 or so haircuts and mentioned that some folks shared with her that they wished Moloka'i had more conveniences such as big box stores that we have on Oahu.



In the afternoon we headed out to Papohaku Beach Park on the West end to check out the beach. On the way we encountered axis deer. Did you know that there about 60,000 head of deer now on the island? The girls loved the beautiful sandy beach. God's creation in all its splendor was on display. Speaking of which, Moloka'i is blessed with a low level of light pollution at night. We spent some of that evening marveling at the stars, including the Milky Way.



Day 3 – Wednesday, 12 July

This morning we split up into two teams. The guys helped clean the yards of two kupuna families, while the ladies gave health assessments at the church.

The first yard was in the old plantation town of Kualapu'u. It was... Challenging. Chest high guinea grass had grown throughout the property. We were fortunate to have a good crew: Pastor Lindo, three of his boys, Brother Lanakila, Justin and myself. Brother Lanakila and I got on the string trimmers, while Pastor, his boys and Justin dug at the stubborn roots and moved cuttings near the truck bed. Once all the cutting was done, we all pitched in to bag and load the truck bed with cuttings and other rubbish that were later hauled off to the land fill. It was hard work but within 2-1/2 hours we were done. Many hands make light work.

*So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height,
for the people had a mind to work. (Nehemiah 4:6)*

*'A'ohe hana i nele i ka uku.
No task is too big when done together by all.
-a Hawai'ian saying*



Pastor Hanale had an opportunity to minister to the owner of the property who had personal, family concerns. She was grateful for our work and especially for the encouragement Pastor Hanale gave her. Someone picked up lunch and drinks for us. It tasted good after a good morning of labor. Mahalo and God bless that person!

The next yard was close to Kaunakakai town. In this case there were just a few weeds we had to cut/pull and a few leaves to pick up. Otherwise, the yard was well-kept. This was the home of Kaunakakai Baptist member, Aunty Sally and her husband, Juan Trinidad. I spent the time talking story with Tito Juan. Although he is becoming hard of hearing and losing his eyesight at 95, he can still converse with others. He is very proud of his daughter Lydia who is the Principal at Kualapu'u School. Before we left, we all laid hands on Tito and prayed over him.



Tito Juan, Aunty Sally, and Da Boyz

In the late afternoon, we met up at church for the car wash. Once again, everyone pitched in and we managed to wash about a dozen vehicles, including several large pickups. Some of the drivers even parked their vehicles and pitched in after.



Working Hard at the Carwash

My observations so far: Everything was working out great. God did not allow us to be overwhelmed. The amount of work we had to accomplish and the effort spent was perfect, all in accordance with His plan. We had the time to do the work, while talking and listening to the people we interacted with. Everyone we encountered had so much aloha.

Day 4 – Thursday, 13 July

Holo Holo – Let’s Go for a Ride

Today we spent most of the day on a field trip, visiting a few sites of interest. As we drove out of Kaunakakai town, headed west on Mauna Loa Hwy., we passed by Church Row across from the Coconut Grove. There are five churches clustered here: Church of the Nazarene, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Moloka’i Church of God, Kalaiakamanu Hou Church, and Iruselema Pomaikai Church.



Church Row

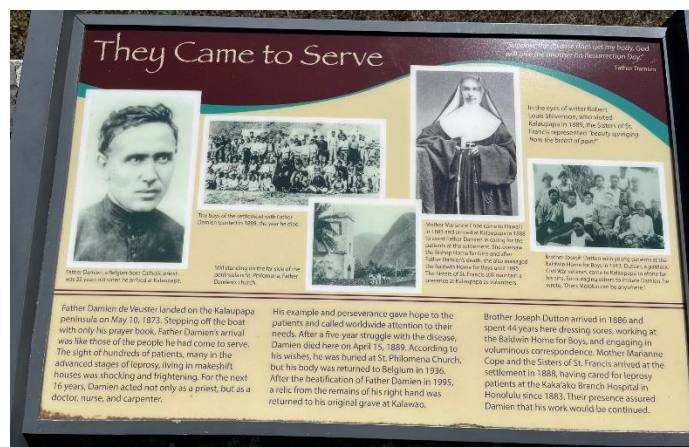
We headed up towards Kualapu’u and beyond towards Pala’au State Park with an overlook of the Kalaupapa Peninsula. The Kalaupapa settlement is where Hansen’s disease (leprosy) patients were housed in isolation from the world, beginning with forced segregation in 1866. More than 8,000 afflicted have passed at the settlement. In 1873 Father Damien De Veuster came to Kalaupapa to minister and provide aid and comfort to these patients. He would be later joined by Sister Marianne Cope and Civil War veteran Joseph Dutton. Father Damien himself would later succumb to the disease and die there. Father Damien and Sister Marianne Cope have been canonized as saints by the Catholic Church. We reflect upon the love, mercy, and personal sacrifice of these good people. We learned that the last patient-resident of Kalaupapa has recently passed. Access is very limited by air and invitation only. The Department of Hawai’ian Homelands (DHHL) and the National Park Service are working on a plan for the future of the settlement, which will probably take the form of a preserved historic site with limited access.



The Team at the Pala'au State Park Overlook



Overlook View of Kalaupapa



One of Several Plaques at the Overlook

The Pala'au State Park also includes a culturally significant site: A phallic rock which native Hawai'ians of old believed to have powers to cause pregnancy in women. We visited the site and also a lesser known site of the "wahine rock". It is important to know of these past practices to temper our outreach ministry with respect and sensitivity to the host culture.

We hopped back into our cars and headed to Mana'e – the East end of Moloka'i. Our first stop was at Saint Joseph Church in Kamalo. This is the Saint Damien of Moloka'i parish. Pastor Lindo shared that an Okinawan businessman who had converted to Christianity contacted him a few years ago. This man was fascinated with Saint Damien and wanted to visit this church. The visit turned into a worship service in the church sanctuary, and people were brought to tears. Through this man's witnessing, other Okinawan businessmen were brought to Christ. Fast forward a few years: The Honolulu interpreter who accompanied the group wrote to Hanale. She shared that she and her husband had been trying to have children but had abandoned the idea. After the moving experience in Kamalo, she prayed and would give birth to a healthy child. Hallelujah!



Saint Joseph Church, Kamalo



Saint Damien Memorial



Captain Joseph Dutton Memorial



We then drove to what appeared to be a meadow dotted with a few monkeypod trees. Here, near where Sister Zhan grew up, she shared her mana'ō (heartfelt thoughts) and the mo'olelo (history) of Mana'e Moku and the Hawai'ian people. Mana'e is rich in natural resources. Mana'e is home to several loko i'a (fishponds) as well as lo'i kalo (taro patches) which help to feed the people of Moloka'i. We had a view of the mountains here and as we drove further East, the ocean as well. A few not-so random notes of Sister Zahn's mana'ō:

Moloka'i is known as ka hula piko (the center of hula). My intermediate school classmate, the late Kumu Hula (Hula Master) John Ka'imikaua was instrumental in uncovering many of the ancient hula mele (songs), oli (chants) and dances that were once thought forgotten. The Lindos were surprised to hear that I knew John. Hawai'ian mo'olelo is passed on orally and much of what is passed on is only within ohana (families), sometimes couched in secrecy for fear of misunderstanding, exploitation, or even persecution by outsiders. Sister Zhan shared that she was also given such warnings. But at some point, she and Hanale felt it necessary to speak out in support of the Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians).

The Lindos are trying to correct the false narrative that Hawaiians originally practiced polytheism. They assert, as does author Dr. Daniel Kikawa, that the first wave of Hawaiian settlers believed in a single, loving God, 'Io. The idea of many gods was actually transplanted by the next wave of settlers from Tahiti. Mana'e is significant in this regard because a large contingent of a chief and his warriors failed in their initial effort to conquer Moloka'i, thanks in part to its large barrier reef which stymied the landing of their canoes. The USGS states that the fringing reef on the South shore of Moloka'i is the longest continuous reef in all the United States and its holdings. Hawaiians today are now beginning to understand that there is a strong correlation between their original belief in a one true God and the Christian God.

Kahuna (spiritual leaders) were regarded as anointed spiritual protectors of their communities. There are several categories of kahuna such as kahuna la'au lapa'au (practitioners of traditional herbal healing). Unfortunately, many westerners seem to focus on the notion of kahuna as sorcerers or leading in human sacrifice. As the kapu system (rigid legalism) took hold in Hawai'i, so did the practice of blood sacrifice as punishment for breaking kapu. It has been suggested by some scholars that the kapu system and associated blood sacrifice has ties, once again, with transplanted religiosity from Tahiti. Kikawa and others assert that 'Io loved humans and did not condone human sacrifice. It is also noteworthy that Liholiho, Kamehameha the Great's son and his high priest Hewahewa became converted Christians and the kapu system was abolished under Liholoho's reign.

Hewahewa prophesied that one day the true God would come to Hawai'i in the form of a black box. The prophecy was fulfilled when missionaries came ashore in Kailua, Kona, carrying a black wooden box which contained a Bible.

This is all fascinating and compelling to me, helping me to understand the depth of Hawai'ian history and certain correlations to Christian theology. It is also evidence of the Lord's consecration of Moloka'i as a special place. Praise the Lord for this outpouring that will inform our witnessing.

*Let the wise hear and increase in learning,
and the one who understands obtain guidance,
to understand a proverb and a saying,
the words of the wise and their riddles. (Proverbs 1:5-6)*

We drove on to the site of Kalua'aha Church, one of the first churches in Hawai'i. Kalua'aha Church was dedicated in 1844 and became known as the "Mother Church" of Moloka'i. It is said that at one time a revival took place at the church when over 6,000 were brought to Christ. Sadly, all that is left are the church walls and stone wall around the property's perimeter.



Kalua'aha Church

We stopped for lunch at Mana'e Goods & Grindz after which, the Lindos drove back to Kaunakakai while we headed further East toward Halawa Valley. Along the way and then back to Kaunakakai, those of us who were still awake (haha) marveled at the ocean views. Along this route, one can see a few of the fishponds that Mana'e is known for. Before the road narrowed and twisted near Halawa, we headed back to Kaunakakai and Hale Pule Ka Wai Ola to rest up and get ready for the evening.

Worship Kanikapila

Early in the evening we were back at Kaunakakai Baptist Church and were treated once again to a sumptuous pot-luck dinner. Later we all took out our instruments. I should mention that Pastor Hanale, Zhan, Lanakila and several other members of Kaunakakai Baptist are awesome musicians. We had a great evening of fellowship and music. Sister Carla treated us to an impromptu flag dance.



Day 5 – Friday, 15 July

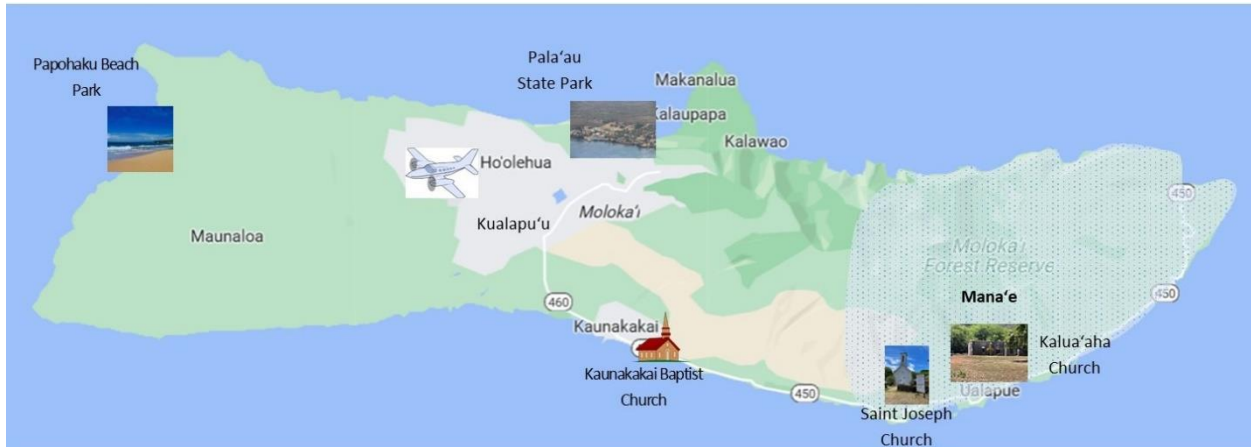
Aloha!

The week went by so fast. Oh, and no trip to Moloka'i would be complete without a visit to Kanemitsu Bakery for hot bread. Some of us went the night before and didn't return late that evening. They stood in line waiting for quite a while but were rewarded with fresh baked bread. Things move a little slower here on Moloka'i. As the sign says coming out of the airport: Slow Down, This Moloka'i!

We've already discussed coming back next year, possibly extending our stay to two weeks. This morning we hung out at church with some of the ladies in their scrubs in case anyone needed a medical assessment. Most of the time today was spent "talking story" and playing with the children. The girls really bonded with them on this trip. Sadly, the time came to say our goodbyes and so we hugged, took our final photos and left to load our bags at Hale Pule Ka Wai Ola, and then head off to the airport. As we got up to altitude on our flight back, the Kalaupapa Peninsula came into view. The refrain to "Moloka'i Slide" suddenly came to me:

*Take me back (take me back) back to da kine.
All over, mo` betta, Moloka'i I will return.*





Last Thoughts and Lessons Learned

As many who have gone on missions have said, we were exceedingly blessed by those who we intended to bless. Everyone we encountered on Moloka'i, from the airlines to the store clerk, to the good folks of Kaunakakai Baptist Church – all share so much Aloha.

Things run at a slower pace on Moloka'i. This helps to build patience and to strengthen relationships. Put the phone down; talk to one another. You don't see many people here engrossed in looking at their smart phones (even though my 5G cell connection was strong in the Kaunakakai area). The Lindos don't allow their grandchildren (fourteen, remember?) to play with electronic devices while at church. They work hard helping out, and play time is either on the church swing set or practicing roping a calf dummy. Did I mention that besides being a pastor, Hanale is also Assistant Fire Chief for Maui Fire Department, and runs a ranch as well? Sister Zhan also comes from rancher stock. She heads the Maui County Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness. And oh, by the way, they are wonderful, talented musicians as well. When I talk with them, everything is Christ-centered, even while discussing social issues on Moloka'i. Praise Jesus for this godly couple.

I've already mentioned Kahu Jonah Kaauwai who graciously shares his spacious house in Kaunakakai. He even shared his vehicle with us as well as his fishing gear. It bears repeating: This man Jonah shines God's Aloha. Praise Jesus for this man with a heart for God.

I want to talk about a few things more that show how God worked in this mission. In Hawai'i we have a phrase "chicken skin" that means getting goose bumps when we learn of something surprising or shocking. Here are just a few chicken skin moments:

- One of Pastor Hanale's first MFD assignments on Maui was working in the fire station across the street from my grandmother's house in Lower Paia.
- Kahu Jonah attended Pearl City Community Church where I first attended as a preschooler, and which was founded by our neighbor in Halawa Heights, the late Reverend Hiro Higuchi.
- I came to find out we have a mutual friend in Leon Siu who is founder of Aloha Ke Akua Ministries, and who is also a musician that works with my wife's Keiki Kani Music.
- And here's a real chicken skin moment: We came to find out that Sister Zhan shares my daughter's first (in Hawaiian) and middle (in Japanese) name – Ku'ulei Mieko.

From the mission's inception to gathering my thoughts in writing this report, it is evident to me that God had His hand in this and showed His favor. When my plan deviated from His plan, He nudged me to correct my course. Everything worked according to His plan: The availability and on-time shipments of supplies, the great service we received from the air freight service, airlines, and vehicle rental, and the expenses coming in well under budget – all a part of His plan. The amount of work we crammed into one week didn't seem like work at all. Again, it was a total blessing for our team and just the right amount of business mixed with a little play time. Even the weather was beautiful. We've come away having learned so much. All that we've learned on this mission can be summed up in one word, Aloha.

Keys to Success

Communicate

- With your home church and other sponsors about the mission's goals, plan and budget
- With the host church to gather consensus
- With God: Pray during the planning process, during the mission, in thanksgiving for all the Lord has done. And then listen to what the Lord is telling you (Isaiah 30:21).

Plan

- With built-in flexibility – because God will probably make some adjustments
- According to the "Iron Triangle of Project Management": Scope, Budget, Schedule
- Timeliness is key – don't procrastinate

Document and track

- Document your planning process
- Journal your mission
- Track costs and expenses

Watch what the Lord can do, and in all things, be thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Mahalo!

I need to thank everyone who helped and blessed us in this endeavor:

Waipahu Community Christian Church, our home church – thank you all for approving this mission and its budget and sending us off with a prayer and laying of hands.

Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention – thank you for the generous donation through the Sue Nishikawa fund.

The parents of the young ladies on our team – thank you for placing your trust in me to keep them safe and sound.

Jennifer and Justin Bandy – thank you for all you did! You were a great help and the haircuts were a hit. Thank you for that awesome tostada meal, Jennifer. And Justin, you are one hardcore yard cleaner! Plus your height came in handy during the car wash.

Dr. Joy Bliss, PHD – thank you for joining us and sharing your expertise.

Pastor Hanale and Sister Zhan Lindo – Mahalo! May your ministries flourish through Christ Jesus. Love you folks.

Brother Lanakila, Sister Carla, and all the other good people of Kaunakakai Baptist Church – Mahalo for showering us with Aloha! Love you folks.

Kahu Jonah Kaauwai – Mahalo! I pray Hale Pule Ka Wai Ola continues in Jesus' Name. Love you my bruddah.

My wife Camilla – thank you hon for putting up with my stress at times, attending and taking notes during Zoom meetings, offering advice, and taking and picking me up to and from the airport. Love you!

To my WCCC Team (Angel Ramos, Chereen and Raychel Menor, Ten Jocson, and Ku'ulei) – Mahalo, salamat po, and thank you my dears for stepping out of your comfort zone and joining me on this journey and sharing your talents. To the young ladies who are about to enter Nursing School and to my daughter the RN, you've learned and practiced compassion on this mission. You will become excellent nurses. Love you all.

May there be a blessing in what I've shared. To God be the Glory and Aloha Ke Akua.