

THE McCoys to Hawaii
Baptist International Missions, Inc/PO Box 9/Harrison, TN 37341
January-March 2023

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil 2:10-11

Aloha & Mahalo, in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Well I can say that it is hot here with certainty, at least in comparison to what we have been accustomed to for the last 20 years. The locals do tell us though, it doesn't take long to acclimate to the heat.

The Lord has been doing some great things. We not only have a family coming regular but we have had a couple of visitors as well.

We are trying not to move too fast but at the same time trying to reach out and make connections. One of the hardest things to do in church planting ministry in a rural area of the world is giving people an opportunity to get to know you when you are really trying to get to know them. Move too fast then you appear as if you are wanting something from them but too slow then you come across as uninterested. This being said we are meeting with some folks on a weekly basis trying to win them, and daily making new contacts.

We set up church services in our attached garage and have had meetings Sunday morning, evening, Sunday school and Wednesday night prayer meetings. We keep the garage door open so others can see and hear the meetings as they are passing by. Last Wednesday one of the neighbors a couple of houses down heard the singing, came to investigate, and stayed for the preaching. Even still the garage gets pretty warm during the day and a bit buggy during the night services. So we picked up a portable air conditioner that we run sparingly during the services to keep the cost down, to help cool it down a bit and a bug zapper to help with the biting critters in the evening.

The family coming to church has 2 younger girls that have been taking piano lessons and they want to play in the church. They are still learning but if I give them songs a week before they can learn to play the hymn enough for us to get by. The main thing is they have a desire to serve the Lord in the church and we want to nurture that desire, so we have picked up a keyboard for them to play at church. Also one of our supporting churches sent us some very nice hymnals and they have been a blessing to sing from.

Although all is going well and the Lord is blessing there is one thing I did not calculate when coming to start a new Church and that is the start up cost. While I was praying about coming, comparing any differences in the monthly cost of living expenses, to make sure we would not need to go on deputation; one thing I failed to consider was starting over from nothing. I guess I was so excited to make the transition and do so as soon as the Lord would allow, start up cost was just something that I failed to calculate. That being said we have had to purchase new furniture, beds, pots, pans dishes, appliances, and so on just to be able to live. Not to mention chairs and things for the church.

Initially we tried to purchase second hand items on the island but that proved to be a challenge in and of itself. One guy I called from a listing claimed he had “like new” mattresses for sale but when he brought them were covered with mud & hair and looked like they literally came from a homeless camp. After a couple of other instances that I won't mention we decided it was best to use our charge accounts and buy new. What we are praying for is that we will have some extra funds come in so we can pay these charge accounts off as soon as possible. The last thing we want to do with the Lord's money is spend it on high interest charge cards.

All things considered this new ministry is exciting and as culturally diverse as any mission field in the world. We have Military, Filipino, Asians, Europeans, Islanders, Samoans, etc who can be reached, all within a 10 minute radius. Please pray that we can be “made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” I Corinthians 9:22

In Christ,

Pat, Lisa, and Levi

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