

## 2025 Senior Pastor's Annual Report

## Oceans of Love

*"Behold what love the Father has lavished upon us." 1 John 3:1*

### **Psalm 93**

*<sup>1</sup> The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;  
the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength;  
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.*

*<sup>2</sup> Your throne was established long ago;  
you are from all eternity.*

*<sup>3</sup> The seas have lifted up, Lord,  
the seas have lifted up their voice;  
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.*

*<sup>4</sup> Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea—  
the Lord on high is mighty.*

*<sup>5</sup> Your statutes, Lord, stand firm;  
holiness adorns your house  
for endless days.*

**Thank you** to our LORD Jesus and the faithful In His church.

**Thank you** for the waves of love that you have poured upon our family. Since my birth in KUC, through my years in seminary, years on the mission field in Albania and since my return visit in 2010 you have overwhelmed us with love. **Thank you** for sending us off to a new season with blessing.

- Change is good when it is from the LORD, founded on the Word of God and for His purposes!  
Keep Jesus at the center!
- My prayer is that we may know the massive opportunity in front of KUC in the future!

**Thank you** for the countless prayers you have made that have enabled me to preach and serve.

**Thank you** for your kindness shown to our pastors and staff who often carry heavy burdens.

**Thank you** on behalf of the many ministries, missions, groups and churches that we can bless through your faithfulness.

**Thank you** to our hard working Pastors, staff, amazing moderator Glenn Nakasaki, vice moderator Kyle Fujii and to our elders and officers who give first of themselves to the Lord and His ministry.

**Thank you**, servants of Christ, for joyfully giving of your time and resources to enable us to serve many thousands of people in Hawaii and around the world.

**Thank you** to those who cheerfully clean, tidy and help on campus.

**Thank you** for making worship the priority in your life. Jesus is worthy!

**Thank you** for warmly welcoming the regular stream of new people that come to us each week.

**Thank you** for stepping up to serve babies, children, young and old, and all kinds.

**Thank you** for loving Jesus and caring for others in His name!

**Our 2025 Vision Strategies** The following bullets prefaced each pastoral report to the Council: ***Vision Strategy as we Pray and Preach***

- ***Building Ohana Groups:*** starting new groups, pastoral care, and intentional follow up with leaders. ***Leadership*** (facilitating, stretching). ***Discipleship*** (growth through Biblical application, fellowship as we grow Christ centered relationships), ***Evangelism*** (everyone leaning to reach out and serve).
- ***Connecting people*** using their shape for service, fellowship, witness. Intentionally identify new people, pastoral contact, friendship, involvement, baptism, membership.
- ***Leadership Training*** saturating all ministries and initiatives (Ohana, tech, worship, volunteer ministries, Gateway, Sunday School, youth etc.), Planned scheduled, meaningful leadership training for all groups.
- ***Family Growth:*** strengthening marriages, supporting parents, nourishing children and youth ministries.
- ***Mission Partners:*** Joining with other churches and ministries to share the Gospel and make disciples.
- ***Prayer Initiatives:*** Encouraging corporate prayer, developing intercessor and prayer teams.

### **Some of the work and ministries the LORD developed in 2025**

New people came to Christ and surrendered to Christ in baptism. Praise God!

God's people were loved, cared for, visited, called, counselled, encouraged by our pastors and ohana leaders. We consistently have funerals, weddings, baptisms, new members and special events.

Pastors worked as a team sharing and growing in the full breadth of pastoral ministry as listed above including administrative areas. We thank our worship teams with Laine, our tech teams, our ushers and greeters which serve so faithfully to glorify God.

Shantil Centino has been taking over the transition from Patricia Steeper for children's church and has also started a young mom's group.

Continued women's ministry initiatives with Beth Araki and team, with amazing events.

Our finance team: accountant, Pastor Chris Nayyir, Lorrie Kaiu, John Kim, Kent Takazawa, Terrie Plewes and finance committee, Dave Beers and investment committee have done a great job in overseeing our finances and budgeting.

Thank you to Jody Serikawa and our important HR committee. Also to Lois and our Mission Task team, to Colin Kumabe, Craig Ikeda and Craig Terada on our Kitchen Committee who are amazing!

Matt Araki growing in his position of creative media and communication had a training conference with Steven Weathers in March.

Ben Sakai and Matt Araki started an interchurch youth sports night each Thursday.

Adult Sunday School discipleship classes flourishing with Alan Nakamura coordinating.

God brought growth among our church partners in reaching people for Christ. Weekly we have 650-800 worshipping. The Kosraean community had over 1000 in Maui on Christmas day. I work weekly with some of the pastors to help train and mentor and meet monthly with all partner leaders.

God stirred new prayer initiatives and training with Grace Chun and our prayer teams: Jan 18-March 1 with Josiah Centino and Dr. Bob Doe.

Marriage conference in March with Dr. and Mrs. Friesen.

Campus improvements included the following: air conditioning, doors maintenance, coolers for our school, guest houses, storage maintenance, renovation for kindergarten/grade 1 class, sewer replacement, chapel lanai improvements, upgrading windows in GI, A7, preventative maintenance, many repairs, vehicles, guest houses etc.

Regular cleaning has been outsourced, and we thank Rowena for her excellent job, as well as Rex Alond for cleaning our floors, carpets, upholstery, sidewalks etc.

Alex and Marlyn Ramirez (Pathways) served from January to October helping with discipleship.

Kalihi Christian School with director Starlisha added staff and built a culture of care. New kindergarten/grade 1 class, weekly chapels with pastors, new events for parents and children.

An expanded Arise Academy (homeschool coop partners) brought life to our campus every Monday and Wednesday with classes from K-12. Other weekly partners encouraged in depth Bible Study with the ladies Community Bible Study (120 ladies and 70 children) on Tues. mornings and Bible Study Fellowship men's and women's groups on Tues. evenings.

Janete Fujii with Christian Vision revitalized the bell choir. Helene Smith led the Christmas choir.

Shirley Kinoshita keeps leading the charge with Stand Firm Youth seminars.

Touch a Heart keeps growing as a team, expanding its impact "one heart at a time" and blessing church and community. Cheff Curtis has been a huge blessing in training cohorts.

Manna ministries continue to reach new heights on Thursday mornings with dedicated teams in packing, hosting, registration, worship, dancing, preaching, cleaning and distribution of food. Roy transitioned leadership to Lexi and Potter. Thank you, Roy, Rowena and many volunteers as we serve 450-550 families each week with spiritual and physical food.

Trail Life and American Heritage girls trained our boys and girls with their Christ centered program and awards for practical life skills.

Mission teams were and individuals were sent out to Philippines, Pakistan, Japan, Dominican. Over 25 old and new missionaries and teams visited our guest houses. We saw the beginning of the Puppet Ranch in Philippines with Lois Pannabecker, Lisa Ching, Jody Serakawa and more.

Thank you to Jesse Pirocchi who hosted our African Bishops conference.

Outreach into Kalihi through our Christmas parade and Living Christmas as our community walked through "Bethlehem" and received the love of Jesus.

Kendal Fong and Steven Ching did a great job leading another Gateway theology class which graduated students in November.

EFCA leaders gathered in November for training at KUC with all EFCA churches.

## **Some Highlighted Plans for 2026**

Our yearly calendar of weekly worship services and special events.

Search Committee, Transition Committees to prepare for the new pastor God is calling.

Monthly prayer and worship nights on the fourth Friday of each month.

New security teams at all our services.

Development of our ministry programs, from cradle to kupuna, children's and family ministries.

Hiring of a facilities manager.

Expanded training in prayer teams and Wounded Heart ministries.

Hawaii Sexuality Conference in March with our EFCA Pastor Gabriel.

Continued partnership with overseas missionaries and the sending of short-term teams to Philippines, Japan, Pakistan, etc.

**Thank you, Heavenly Father, for blessing us and working in your church!**

**Thank you, Patricia, Benjamin and Ben for your daily support.**

**Thank you to the pastors, staff, Glenn Nakasaki and Council, it is a joy to serve with you!**

**Thank you, friends, for your prayers, love, encouragement and kindness over the past years of ministry together.**

**May we continue to serve with joy for God's glory!**

**Aloha and multiplied blessings in Christ,**

**Jonathan Steeper**