

THE

SOTO FAMILY

WINTER MONTHS



Aloha Partners in Ministry,

Happy new year! We hope and pray that the past year was a profitable one for you and your ministry. We had a great year at Kai Point. As a church, we took a moment to look at the last twelve months as a ministry. Remembering what God has already accomplished and the ways he has moved and done the impossible is a great way to begin a new year!

Kai Point is in its fifth year of existence and that in and of itself is a miracle. The doors are still open. The Bible is being preached. We have music men leading the music faithfully (For so long, I did the entire service by myself. Not being musical in any way, that was a challenge!) Our church is soul-winning regularly and seeing beautiful beautiful growth.

As you may remember, we started in the theater, paying \$300/hour for our Sunday morning only. God then opened up the location where we are now in the same shopping center, and we paid about the same as in the theater, only were able to use the facilities 24/7. A few years in we experienced negative growth, where several families move all at once, and we had a very hard time making our payments, although we never were late once. God opened the windows of Heaven and sent the Insurance company to us to pay over half our rent, and only use our facilities between 9-5. That was hardly an inconvenience to us, and a huge help financially. Now, our lease has ended. Praise the Lord - he provided each month of those five years! To God be the glory!

For at least two years we have been actively looking for an availability to pop up, especially with all the vacancies that COVID mandates caused, and we cannot find anything in our area, close to our price range. We've found that churches have a poor reputation for paying their bill and landlords aren't willing to rent to them. To sign a new lease in our current location, the shopping center wanted to raise our rent from \$7800.00-\$11,400.00 a month. Never. No way. No how could we or would we do that.

However they agreed we could go month to month at our current rate. Staying put was seeming really great for us, until last week the insurance decided they could no longer afford this lease.

That gives us two options. First, vacate the facilities, and meet at the beach. Second, offer the shopping center our best offer and PRAY FOR GOD TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE. We are a small church in a very expensive area. We've probably shared that Hawaii Kai has been referred to as the graveyard of missions. It's a hard area, but God has allowed Kai Point to make it for five years, to have a permanent meeting location where we could meet freely during COVID. We know some churches that still can't meet because schools, etc... won't allow large groups. We are remembering all these miracles God has done, and we are on our knees asking him to work a miracle.

The shopping center was actively looking for a renter to take over our facility paying \$11,400.00. They found no one, and what we currently pay is \$3,500.00, (with the insurance paying the remaining). We submitted a proposal offering to go month to month for \$3,500.00. We have a good testimony with them, we have never been late on payments, and there are many vacancies in their shopping center.

These guys are pretty brutal, and it might seem like a hilarious offer to make. I felt like this was the best move for our church. I don't want to agree to a higher payment that is going to consume our time and energy to pay each month.

We are begging our supporting churches to pray for God to work and allow this to happen. We are praying fervently for God to do what only He can in our church in Hawaii Kai.

We will have an answer by January 31. On February 6, we are praying God allows us to be right where we

currently are, preaching the Gospel, seeing people saved and lives changed.

We thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord and your ministry. We are SO thankful for the churches that are continuing faithfully through the setbacks of the past two years. Please pray with us that God would allow the landlords to do the impossible and accept our offer. That's our heart's desire, but if God doesn't allow that, then we will plan on having outdoor services on the beach until God shows us a different plan. Our doors will not be closing!

We will send another prayer letter next month updating you on the happenings of our ministry.

Much aloha and a big Mahalo (thank you) to you for partnering with us in prayer for this request,

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