

THE

# SOTO FAMILY

KAI POINT BAPTIST CHURCH-Winter 2023/2024



Aloha Partners in Ministry,

Happy New Year!

We hope this season has been one of serving the Lord and seeing His faithfulness.

We started the holiday season by hosting a thanksgiving and praise breakfast the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Our church people invited the community and came together to put on a beautiful brunch. We had a good attendance and saw many first time visitors. We didn't see any salvations, although seeds were planted. We are praying for God to work and that we'd have fruit that remains. Many church members were active in inviting friends and family and are earnestly praying for God to work in their loved ones hearts.

We had a great Christmas season at our church. We were able to pass out lots of invitations. We cut back on big events that we have done in the past, and rather had our focus be our Sunday morning service specifically.

After much prayer, I felt the Lord leading me to have our church theme be Fitly Joined. God laid the verse in Ephesians "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." One of our church goals this year is that God would knit our church members hearts together and we would develop Christlike brotherly love.

I was able to share this with our church in our Vision Sunday. The very next week we put this into practice by having our Missions Conference and hosting Dr. Don Sisk.

Dr. Sisk was gracious enough to come preach our missions conference the third week of January as well as for a few sister churches. Our church LOVED hearing his passion for Gods work as well as his many testimonies of Gods working in his own life. It was a great time for our church family. We currently support 3 missionary families and are praying we'll be able to support a local church planter in the coming year. We are seeking to big large supporters both in prayer and finances to a smaller number of missionaries. We would love to have a big impact on these families as they take the Gospel over seas.

One of the church members at Kai Point is a coffee roaster and has been praying with me about how God would use him. When the space next to us in the shopping center opened , he immediately came to me wanting to start a coffee shop in coordination with the church. We prayed about it and slowly moved forward. At each step, asking God to close doors if in any way this was not his doing. However, things have progressed pretty smoothly and we are looking forward to the coffee shop opening on February 8. It will be open during the week for the community and a devoted member of our church will also be running it. We are hoping that God uses this opportunity to bring many families and individuals to our church. The proceeds will all go to the coffee shop, but he has expressed an interest in using the profits for missions. That would be a really exciting thing for our church to partake in. Our church members and my family have been instrumental in the labors to get this shop open and operating!

Last year, we pivoted from midweek Bible services to in home Bible studies. The setup was much more successful for getting our church members to come out in the evenings. We usually serve dinner which is a lot of fun and provides a place of nourishment and encouragement. We are asking God to continue to use these for His glory.

Also, on a personal note, we were able to finally purchase a home in Hawaii Kai. After 12 moves in our 13 years of marriage, it is looking like we will be able to stay put a while. We are praising the Lord for how He worked. The house is in bad shape. It had been empty for quite some time and had all kinds of critters inhabiting it, as well as a bit of rot that will need replacing. Our first week moved in, and the kitchen, living room and bathroom all flooded. I was looking for Noah, but couldn't find that guy. We are looking forward to fixing it up and not needing to move in 12 months, which has been our typical routine. God is good always, and I have learned so is His timing although is is rarely the same as ours!

Please keep us in your prayers as we ask God for devoted church members, developed church leadership, and determined hearts to keep the mission of the church moving forward.

Thank you again for your prayers and financial support! We couldn't do what we do without you and the faithful support of your church.

If we can do anything for you, please feel free to reach out to us. Have a great day!

-The Soto Family  
Rafael, Cara, Adelyn, Branson, Amelia, Briggs, Banning

# PRAY FOR:

1. Church growth spiritually and numerically
2. Additional Leadership in the Church
3. Monthly support to stay strong
4. Spring Revival (March 3-5)



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