

Hawaii Outreach Team Continues to Empower

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With the second week of the Honolulu outreach just beginning, excitement is in the air. The team has just said goodbye to some of the participants from the first week, while welcoming seven new people who have joined the team from around the country.

Students at the University of Hawaii campus have been receptive and open to the outreach team. The Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP), which is established on campus, has made meeting rooms available for Divine Principle presentations. The team also has had success at Waikiki Beach, which has been a wonderful spot to talk with people in the late afternoon before catching a glimpse of the breathtaking sunsets.



Each member of the team is encouraged to learn how to deliver their own one-on-one Divine Principle presentations. A few already are giving introductory presentations on a regular basis, while the rest of the team continues to train and practice. Many of the participants feel invigorated as they share their faith. Much of the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and inspiring.

“I came to realize that Hawaii is a place that our Heavenly Parent has prepared and set a foundation for,” said an 18-year-old Unificationist from Oregon. “I met so many amazing people, and to me it felt more like making friends. I feel very lucky to be here.”

One girl from New York City participated with her mother and said that it was a unique growth experience. “I’m glad that I had my mom by my side so I could hear how she got through to people. Learning and listening to her was pretty hard in the beginning, because I wasn’t really into meeting people all day for eight hours. By the time I actually started opening my mind and participating, it got a lot better. I loved listening to other people’s thoughts. I feel like they inspired me, when I thought I was supposed to be the one inspiring them!”



This enthusiasm has allowed the team to capture the attention of some wonderful guests. Another mother and daughter team gave this testimony about meeting a guest at Waikiki Beach, “After praying on the beach, I saw a shining bright light and it was coming from this gentleman!” This guest has continued to meet with them every day since then, hearing a quick summary from the introduction to the Second Advent, all the way to the meaning of the Holy Marriage Blessing. He said, “What I have heard here is more complete and thorough than any other Christian explanations I have received from the different churches I’ve attended in the past.”

On Saturday, January 24, the Honolulu Family Church prepared a special dinner to thank those who had come for the first week of the outreach efforts. Everyone enjoyed short introductions by all in attendance and entertainment by both local Unificationists and members of the outreach team. The aforementioned guest, who also attended the program, commented, “Everyone here is very wonderful!”



It has been a truly transforming experience for guests and participants alike. “It has become clear to me that everyone I approach is looking for something,” said a 21-year-old participant from New Jersey. “Everybody is searching for something more. We are all on this earth together, and now my life is intertwining with people I would have never known otherwise. I am learning about the power of

conviction, the power of the Word, and the power of the spirit world. I know that I still have so much ahead of me and so much more to learn and discover.”

To build a family atmosphere on the team, shared responsibilities are encouraged, daily Hoon Dok Hwe (study of scripture) is done together, and outreach partners are rotated so that everyone has an opportunity to bond.

It is exciting to see the transformation of the team members as they invest themselves sincerely. Their confidence and sense of identity have grown. The most profound development, however, is their increasing desire to bring others to God and True Parents. With only two weeks remaining in the outreach efforts, the team looks to make a lasting impact in Hawaii.