Introducing Phil Pierce

in a new season of ministry
as a full-time missionary in the islands.



"I'm so excited I can hardly wait to get there and get involved. My heart is for the homeless, abandoned and abused." — Phil Pierce

In December of 2008 J. Phillip Pierce will relocate from Alabama to Hawai'i, joining the ministry team of the REUNION Sunday services and assisting the Overseer of the Hawaii Church of God of Prophecy with administrative and operational leadership.

Phil has deep roots in the Church of God of Prophecy, but in recent years has served as an Ordained Church of God Bishop. Through a close working relationship with the Hawaii Church of God Administrative Bishop, Johnny House, Phil will retain his Church of God ministry credentials while working under the auspices and direction of Hawaii Church of God of Prophecy.

In addition to his experience as a Youth Director, Pastor, and Executive Pastor, Pierce is an accomplished musician, with more than three hundred songs published by Integrity Music.

Because he is multi-talented and broadly experienced, writing a job description for Phil is not easy. We are awaiting his arrival, praying in agreement together, and allowing the Lord to lead us in how to integrate Phil into the team. We know he will have some role in worship, will do some teaching/preaching, and will take the lead in the operation and business aspects of the church.

A step of faith: Hawai'i COGOP has no funds to offer Phil a salary; he is coming at his own expense, as a step of faith. Several individuals and local churches on the U.S. mainland have expressed support for Phil's mission and we trust that will develop into enough financial support to enable him to live without seeking secular employment.

If you, or your local church, feel impressed to aid Phil with his transition, or offer ongoing support as he comes alongside the leadership in Hawai'i, contact **Phil Pierce** at **205.381.9826**

A big Aloha awaits

Phil's arrival can't come soon enough for us! We have so many areas of need that match his skills and life experience, that the biggest problem will be holding back so we don't overwhelm him.

Let me encourage you to extend your prayers and financial support to Phil's new mission. He is leaving everything behind, moving to a culture foreign to him, and he has a one-way ticket... there is no plan "B."

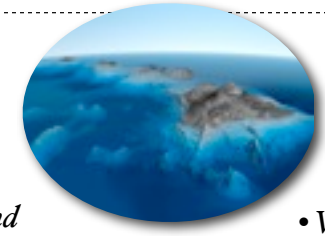


It is a huge step of faith for all of us, as we trust God for sources of ongoing provision and open doors for ministry.

Will you help Phil make this long-held dream a reality?

– Gary Langley

DEFINING THE MISSION



Among the active missions Phil will focus on are…

- *Homeless outreach ministry*
- *Ministry to abused, abandoned and battered women and children*
- *Teaching classes for incarcerated men and women*
- *Mentoring and discipling at-risk youth*
- *Community program & leadership development*
- *Worship music as community outreach*
- *Internal church expansion - management and allocation of resources*

Hawaii? A mission? Really? How so?

Isn't Hawai'i just another of the 50 United States? How can it be a mission field?

Hawaii is the most geographically isolated island chain on the face of the earth, separated from the U.S. mainland by 2,000 miles of Pacific Ocean. Because it is such a small place in the middle of the ocean, and is the point of entry for most Asian and Pacific Islanders entering the United States, Hawaii is a strategic location.

It is strategic for the U.S. Military forces. While Pearl Harbor might be America's most well-known military base, Hawaii is home to every branch: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. Many of the almost 46,000 service men and women are young and far away from home for the first time. Some are facing imminent deployment to a combat zone, or have just returned from deployment. There is a need to evangelize these young people, and many open doors to reconnect those who have dropped out of church attendance upon enlistment.

Hawaii is also a strategic mission due to the diverse international population. The population includes Japanese, Hawaiian, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Micronesian, Filipino, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, African-American, European and Hispanic many more nationalities and ethnicities. There are few places on earth with greater opportunities to impact the nations in a small place. Almost all of the people groups in the islands have close connections to friends and family in their native countries. When we reach them with the gospel in Hawaii, they are able, in turn, to reach their friends and families back home in their native languages.



Hawaii is the embodiment of Matthew 9:37-38 ***"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."***

Culture



In Hawaii's agricultural past, workers from all over Asia and the Pacific Islands were imported as laborers in the sugar cane and pineapple fields. They came in waves of immigration: Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Portuguese and Puerto-Ricans among others. As they learned to work together, communicate and build a new life in the islands, a unique culture was born.

With almost 40% of the population of Asian heritage, and 16% Polynesian, the culture in the islands is more closely akin to those regions than to America in many ways. Visitors to the islands find it an exotic destination without the disadvantages of international travel: no passport or currency exchange necessary.

That unique Asian-Pacific culture has many beautiful aspects, but it comes with a high price. Christianity is a minority religion, with less than 30% of the population claiming any kind of Christian faith, including the many Roman Catholics in Hawaii. The great irony in that statistic is that prior to the agricultural immigration, in the mid 1850's Hawaii was the site of a great spiritual revival, and over 97% of the residents of the islands were born-again believers, making it the most Christian nation on earth at that time! From 97% Christian to less than 30% in a century and a half is exactly the opposite of the pattern of world evangelization we all believe in, and the followers of Jesus in Hawaii long for, and pray for Hawaii to once again be the most Christian place on earth.

We need the prayers, resources and cooperation of believers like you to see that goal realized.

There are an estimated 6,000+ homeless in a state of 1.3 million people... some in shelters, some under a tarp at a beach park, and some living in cars and vans. Because of the extremely high cost-of-living in the islands, a high percentage of the homeless are the working poor, leaving their make-shift living conditions to go to work daily. Like everywhere else, Hawaii has a horrific drug problem. Crystal Meth and other drugs are pandemic, and are destroying thousands of individuals and families. Beneath the P.R. facade of the vacation paradise there are all the problems faced by every city and nation; rampant crime, poverty, homelessness, addiction, and hopelessness.

