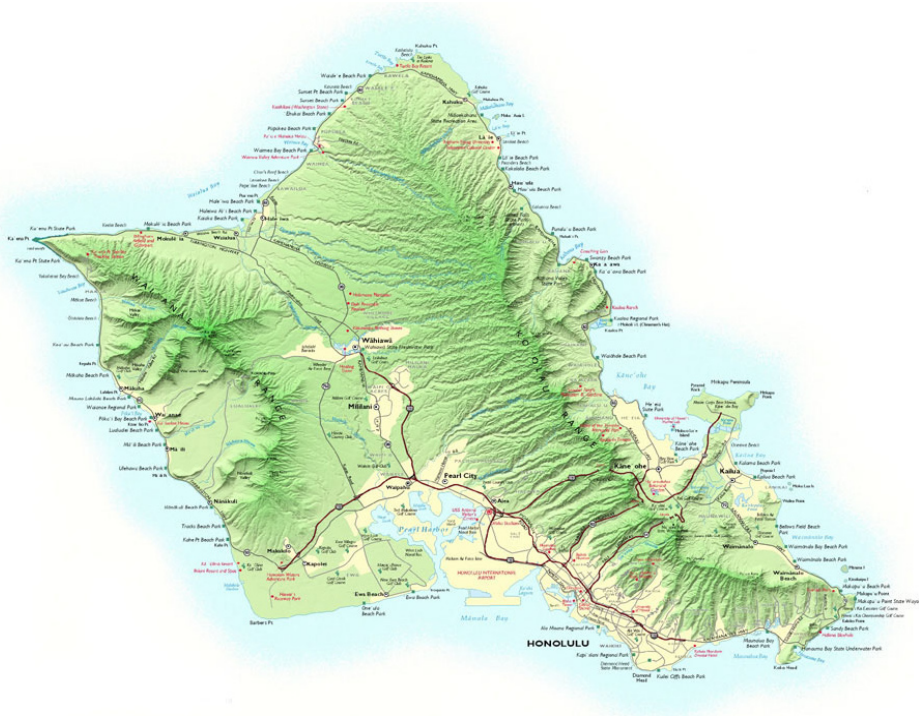


Let them give glory to the Lord
and proclaim his praise
in the islands.

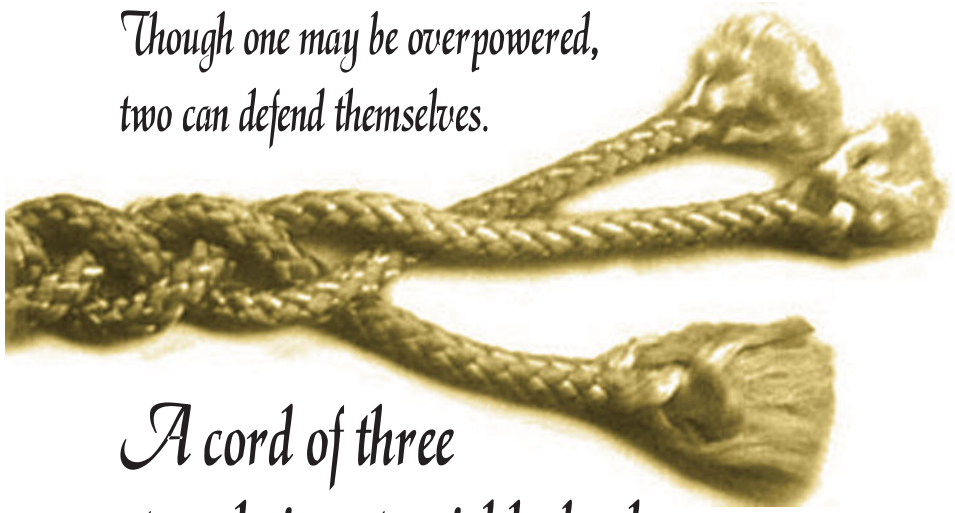
Isaiah 42:12 (NIV)

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their work:

If one falls down, his friend can help him up.
But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.



A cord of three
strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV)

We are part of a family of churches with four congregations on O'ahu. For more than 50 years the Church of God of Prophecy has had a ministry presence in Hawai'i. During that time much good has been accomplished, and from these ministries have come many fine pastors, evangelists, teachers and dedicated lay leaders who have moved from Hawaii to impact many parts of the world. While we are rejoicing in that successful track record, we face the hard reality that we have been less successful building and sustaining large, healthy congregations here in Hawai'i. We have spent a lot of time in prayer and strategy meetings identifying some of the problems and reasons, and seeking God's direction for the future.

The Pastors and State Leaders of the Hawaii COGOP believe we have found that direction for the immediate future.

God speaks to us in many ways; through His direct voice, through the Word of God, through prophecy, and, sometimes, through timing and circumstances. In September of 2006 a Pastor in Atlanta, a man we have never met, and who has only driven past Windward Worship Center on trips to Hawaii, sent an email to Pastor Gary Langley. It read, in part:

> "*In prayer this week - Just out of the blue - your name and your church came before me and it was like I was driving up that hill and looking at your church and God said - Tell Gary - I have a larger building for them and I will open it up to them quickly - get prepared to move and get prepared to grow!*
>
> *I am very cautious about giving people "words" that I do not know - especially preachers! :-) I have seen this "vision" and heard these words several times this week so - I really do know that God has set before you an open door and it will be an absolute Miracle and you will expand and multiply. Get ready!"*

We accepted that as a true prophetic word.

Flash-forward to this year, to this month. Our congregation at Windward Worship Center continues to show steady, but slow growth, but seems to have plateaued, limited by our facilities and parking. In Waipahu, the Milltown Fellowship has been struggling to rebound with their small, but faithful group. Our Spanish-language group in Waimanalo has seen some moving in and out, and is a loving fellowship, but — again — is reduced to a small, faithful core group.

Together, we are stronger.

We need people to commit to attend and serve in areas such as:

❏ **Hospitality** – Preparing water, coffee and tea before services folding bulletins and handouts, greeting and welcoming people as they arrive with a smile and a hug! (Requires early arrival.)

❏ **Set-up** – Preparing the cafeteria for services; opening up, loading in equipment and musical instruments. (Requires early arrival.)

❏ **Tech Team** – Assist with set-up and operation of audio and video equipment, run video camera, edit audio and video files for later broadcast. (Requires early arrival. Requires tasks after services.)

❏ **Transportation** – Get the quipment to the location before services and remove it afterward. Also assist those needing a ride to the new meeting location. (Requires early arrival. Requires tasks after services.)

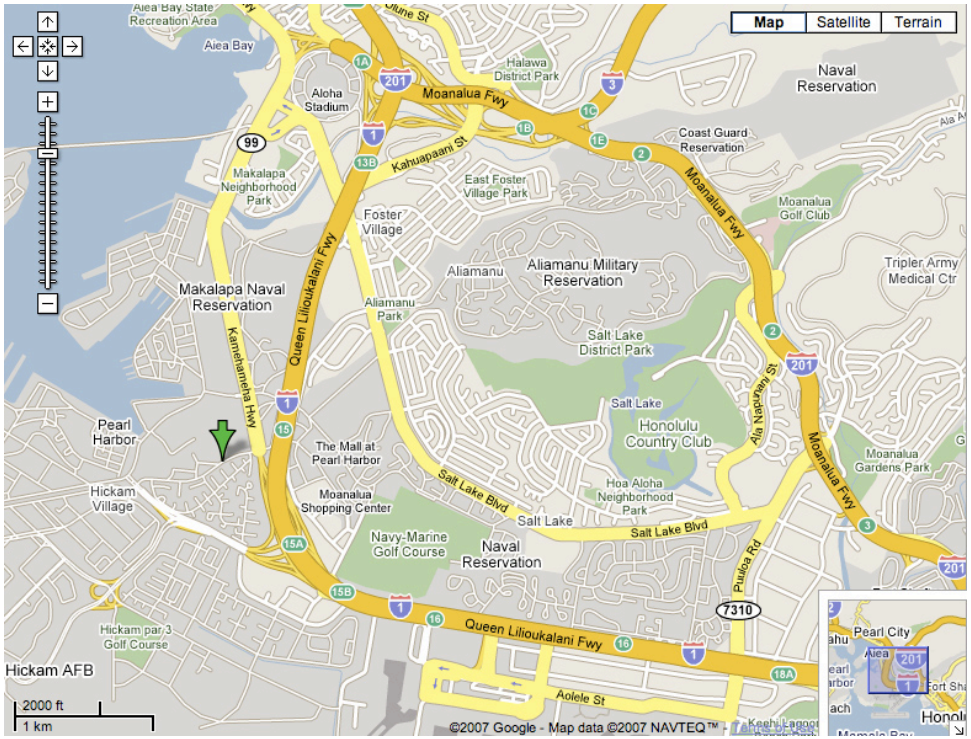
❏ **Parking** – Help coordinate parking around meeting site, assist handicapped individuals and parents with small children who need assistance. (Requires early arrival. Requires tasks after services.)

❏ **Security** – Patrol the area before and during gatherings to maintain security of the people in attendance, equipment, and automobiles. (Requires early arrival.)

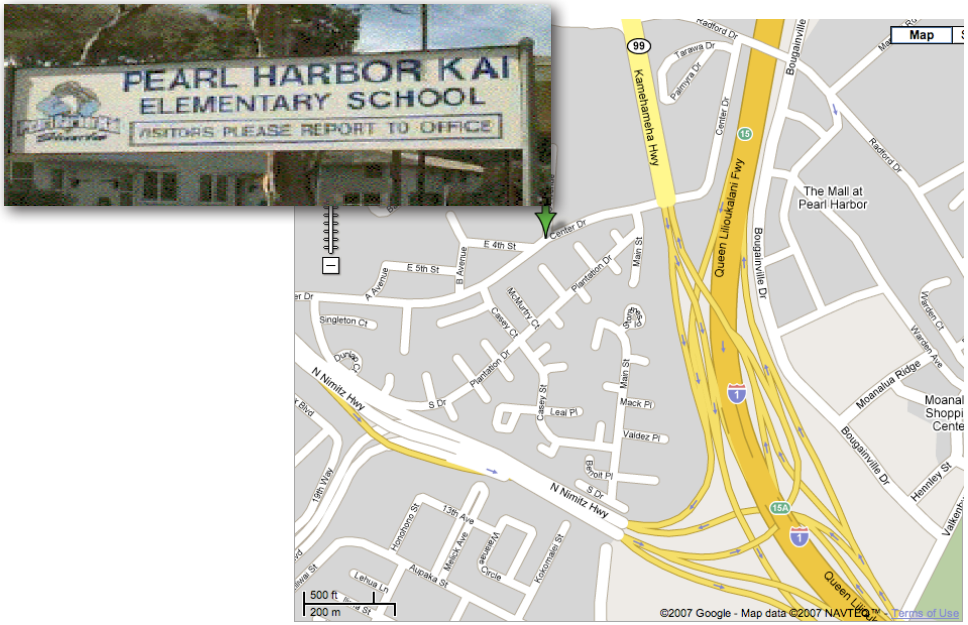
❏ **Clean-up** – Assist with sweeping, removing rubbish, aiding the prompt load-out of equipment, and generally leaving the school cleaner than we found it! (Requires tasks after services.)

…and there will be other things needed as we identify them.

Get involved… be a part of God's plans!



Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School
1 C Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818



Out on the West side, our Ma'ili church had an encouraging year with measurable growth, but the place in which they have been meeting is slated for demolition the first week of January 2008 to make way for a Habitat for Humanity project.

We believe that is God speaking to us through circumstances.

For almost a decade leaders in the Hawaii COGOP have now and then asked *"what if...?"* What if we had done this differently? What if we could find a way to work together more closely for the common good? What if we could utilize the strengths and talents of all of our churches and minimize the weaknesses?

That time has arrived.

In order to strengthen our smaller groups, provide a meeting place for those losing their home, and see the prophecy of moving and growing fulfilled before our eyes, **we will be combining all of the groups together in joint Sunday Morning services starting January 6, 2008**! We are not merging. We are not eliminating any churches, congregations of pastors — we are simply choosing to work more closely together, worship together, and strengthen one another.

At a recent Pastors' Retreat at Camp Timberline we talked and prayed together, and we left that mountain certain that we had heard from God, and certain of this plan for unity. Of course, we had no idea *how*, or *where*, or the *details*... we just put our trust in the Lord and asked him to be in the center of all our plans.

The one thing we knew was *when*: with the demolition at Ma'ili already scheduled, the first Sunday of 2008 was an absolute deadline. The *where* was more difficult. We started seeking a more centrally located place big enough to accommodate 200-250 people. It had to be *available*, and it had to be *affordable*. Neither goal was easy. We visited schools and community centers from Halawa to Waipahu in search of a suitable meeting site, and heard "NO!" a lot. And yet, we knew this was God's plan and God's timing, so we pressed forward until we got a "*maybe*." At a meeting on December 10 we found an open school cafeteria! There was one problem: this school had never allowed a church to meet there. After spending time with the Principal and Assistant Principals, God gave us favor with them and they appeared to give us the okay, but wanted to have their own internal meeting later to discuss the details. We prayed for an open door and for favor. Our concern was that, even if they said "yes!" the expense would be prohibitive. The standard DOE fee schedule for organizations using public school facilities calls for $77/

hour + custodial charges and electrical use. We did the math... that would have meant about $300 weekly, and over $1,200 monthly. Under our present financial circumstances that was just not a feasible option. We prayed, again, for God's favor.

Late on December 13 we got the official confirmation from the school that we can meet there for an initial three month trial period (January–February– March). The Assistant Principal said they had decided to only charge us $50 per weekly service if we will handle the clean-up ourselves and leave the place cleaner than we found it each week. With thanks and assurances, we had the approval for which we had waited so we could make this announcement to the churches.

We believe, again, that God is directing our plans through circumstances.

And there's more…

A core group of leaders met to start working on the *how*.

We quickly realized that we would need new equipment and a lot of volunteers to do "portable church." Both the Waipahu and Kaneohe facilities are used by other church groups, so we need to leave sound systems and projectors in place. Adding up the start-up costs, the numbers kept climbing… approaching $7,000.00. Since none of us had an extra $7,000, we again prayed for God's favor.

*Where God gives **vision**, He gives **provision**!*

A small notice was posted on an internet message board just asking for people to agree with us in prayer for a needed amount. No details were given, but within hours two people messaged saying the Lord had prompted them to send money, totaling $525. A few other things happened within hours bringing that amount to over $1,000, and we will have some funds made available through Hawaii COGOP that brings us to more than half of the needed $7,000, all within hours of securing the approval to meet in the school.

God's direction. God's timing. God's provision.

Sunday • January 6, 2008 • 10 AM
Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School



Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...

Hebrews 10:25