



QUARTERLY UPDATE

FIRST PREZ HONOLULU | www.raisethesails.org | APRIL 2020

DEAR FIRST PREZ FRIENDS & FAMILY,

It's an unprecedented time. We all have been hit so hard in so many ways due to COVID-19. But God is so good to us, and we continue to pray for you. We pray that the Lord will push back the disease. It's a time to draw closer to Him.

In this Holy Week approaching Easter, when we can't meet in person we are grateful for your support in so many ways – emails, phone calls, texts, financial giving. We are all trying to encourage, comfort, and strengthen one another in a myriad of ongoing digital church ministries.

God has been generous to us in His grace and mercy. Fortunately we studied His generosity last year, and we have completed the first quarter of our RAISE THE SAILS Generosity Journey, and so far it's been great!

The enclosed are some of the stories and results of our journey since last December.

If you made a commitment to RAISE THE SAILS, a record of your giving since Dec 1st is enclosed in this newsletter. If you haven't made a commitment, you're getting only this newsletter.

It is my prayer that you've already experienced that RAISE THE SAILS is not just about money; it's also about total faith and trust in our generous God, who stands with us. We are thankful for His love especially at this time when there is so much heartache in Hawaii and and the world.



Blessed to serve the Lord with you as we all fight the good fight!

Warmly in Christ,

Dan Chun | Senior Pastor

P.S. If you have a recent story of how God proved Himself to be faithful and generous in your life through RAISE THE SAILS, please let me know. Drop me a note or email me at aloha@fpchawaii.org. It would really encourage others.

WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 ONLINE** through the website: www.fpchawaii.org/give or www.raisethesails.org/give where you can make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts.
- 2 TEXT-TO-GIVE:** Text "FPCHI" to 77977 and follow prompts
- 3 FIRST PREZ APP:** Choose the GIVE button on the app and follow prompts. If you don't have the app, go to the App Store (for iPhones) or Google Play (for Android phones), search for "First Presbyterian Honolulu," then download it.
- 4 MAIL** your check to the church. We can also send you pre-addressed, stamped envelopes that you can use to send in your gift. Call the church office (808.532.1111) to request for the envelopes.

THE PRIMARY GOAL

100% ENGAGEMENT

Total # of RTS Commitments = 1,058 donors
First-Time Givers Since the RTS Launch = 83

THE SECONDARY GOAL

\$15.5 MILLION TOTAL

(inclusive of annual ministry operations for two years, repairs, and ministry expansion)

Total Committed to RTS = \$11,463,313
Actual Giving to March 15th = \$2,031,321

All gifts to First Prez Honolulu from Dec 2019 to Dec 2021 count toward the Raise the Sails goal. Thanks for being a part of it!

MAKING CHARITABLE GIFTS FROM RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

When we reach the age of 70 ½ we're required by the IRS to withdraw a certain amount of money from our retirement accounts each year. That amount is called required minimum distribution (RMD). RMD rules apply to tax-deferred retirement accounts: traditional IRAs, rollover IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs, SEP IRAs, most small-business accounts, and most 401(k) and 403(b) plans. One form of RMD is something called Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), which can be a tax-efficient and convenient way to support First Prez's mission because you can donate directly from your retirement account to the church, which then reduces your tax liability. Contact your financial advisor to learn more about QCDs and how you can use it to help First Prez further its mission of "love God, love people, and reach the world for Jesus Christ."



First Prez member Richard Willoughby shares his experience with QCD:

"Last fall when the Raise the Sails Generosity Journey started, my wife Linda and I started to pray about what God was calling us to do. We had always been writing a monthly check to the church for the offering. Since we were over 70 ½ years old, we investigated options with our financial advisor about how to handle our required minimum distribution from our IRA. He suggested we consider Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), which goes directly to the church. This is an easy and simple process to set up. It proved beneficial to the church and to us. And because of the timing, we were also able to give upfront our tithe to First Prez, giving the church the funds at the first of the year."

GOD IS GENEROUS THROUGH HIS PEOPLE!

It was March 15th, the first Sunday when we suspended all on-campus worship services as a precaution against the Coronavirus. We had informed the congregation by email two days prior. But on that Sunday, we had a handful of staff on campus to greet and inform people who might come because they didn't get the word. And sure enough a few dozen people came. One of them was a First Prez member who had walked in the rain from the parking lot to the building, and after being told that there was no service, he turned around to go back to his car. But before he could get there, he turned around and went back toward the building again in the rain. It turned out that he forgot to hand over to Pastor Tim the offering envelope he had with him. What a picture of commitment and generosity!



QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR GIVING OR HOW TO SET UP RECURRING GIFTS?

Contact Debbie (bookkeeper):
dentacct@hawaii.rr.com / (808) 836-9995

To learn more about
RAISE THE SAILS, visit

RAISETHESAILS.ORG

SOME THINGS TO BE GRATEFUL FOR

MORE IN SMALL GROUPS!

Some of the new small groups formed during our Raise the Sails study last October have continued to meet beyond the 6-week study. Connections made with each other and the Lord have become stronger and deeper.



THE VINE LAUNCHED

Our downtown campus opened on March 1st! We welcomed people curious about God and those without a church family. Sunday worship services are designed to create an environment that's safe for asking questions about faith and God. Some people who didn't have faith in Jesus came at the invitation of friends, and then eventually committed their lives to Him!



NEW SEWER SYSTEM INSTALLED

We all know how important a sewer system is for any house, establishment, or church like First Prez. A change in the City and County regulations for how wastewater is handled mandates that we renovate our building kitchen and sanitary drainage system. As a result we had to replace our multiceptor with a conventional grease interceptor, a massive project that involved redoing pipes in the building and installing a huge tank under the driveway outside the cart barn on campus. Work on the project continues. We'll have an update for you in the next newsletter.



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

We are doing everything we can to serve you during these difficult times. Please join in our churchwide efforts.

ONLINE CHURCH

Effective March 15th, we suspended all on-campus gatherings, meetings, and worship services in support of the directive to practice social distancing and to stay home to help curb the rise of COVID-19 cases in our state. As a result, we've moved to ONLINE CHURCH! **VISIT WWW.FPCHAWAII.ORG**

- **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:** We do interactive, live screenings of a pre-recorded worship service on our website with music, prayer, sermon, and a blessing. Those who tune in are able to interact with each other through real-time chats visible on screen. Live screening at 8AM, 9:30AM, 11:11AM, and 4PM. Video sermons from previous Sundays are also available on the website.
- **ONLINE KO'OLAU KIDS CHURCH:** We post age-appropriate video teachings for preschoolers, grade schoolers, and pre-teens and activity sheets for parents to use with their kids at fpchawaii.org/koolau-kids
- **ONLINE YOUTH GROUPS:** Middle schoolers and high schoolers meet online through Zoom video conferencing for worship, Bible study, journaling, and even workouts! More info at fpchawaii.org
- **ONLINE YOUNG ADULTS SMALL GROUP:** Young adults gather Sunday afternoons at 5PM to discuss the Sunday sermon. More info at fpchawaii.org
- **ONLINE MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP:** Men of all ages meet online through video conferencing for prayer, friendship, support, and honest sharing of their lives. More info fpchawaii.org/men
- **ONLINE JUST SHOW UP:** An online public reading of Scripture where attendees listen to beautifully recorded readings of the Bible. More info fpchawaii.org/jsu
- **DAILY DEVOTIONS:** Thoughts and reflections written by the staff are published daily on the First Prez website to help readers keep their eyes on Jesus. More info at fpchawaii.org/devotionals
- **RIGHT NOW MEDIA:** Gain free access to an extensive library of faith-based videos. Go to fpchawaii.org/rightnow-media to subscribe.

REACHING OUT TO SERVE

Though we're under the stay-at-home-work-from-home directive, we can still continue to think outward, and show love to our neighbors by helping them. Read more about these and other service opportunities on our website: fpchawaii.org

- **BE A DIGITAL MISSIONARY.** Help people stay connected or get connected to others in our church by showing them how to download and use our church's app, navigate First Prez's website and social media accounts and connect to others using Face Time or Zoom. Contact jeff@fpchawaii.org to learn more.
- **BE A PHONE FRIEND.** Many people, particularly our kupuna, live on their own and many of them feel isolated. Join our Phone Friend Team and help us reach out to people in need. Contact Tim Shaw to learn more: tim@fpchawaii.org • 808-532-1117
- **DONATE BLOOD.** The HI Blood Bank is an essential entity. It has created a safe donation environment which complies with the social distancing recommendations of our government officials while allowing them to collect blood to sustain our community. Go to www.bbh.org/covid-19 for info.
- **VOLUNTEER TO FEED THE HUNGRY THROUGH THE PANTRY.** This is a nonprofit and an essential service that provides healthy food for people at risk on our island. They need volunteers who are comfortable with computers to help create schedules and send out emails. Contact Jennine@thepantry.org
- **PRAY DILIGENTLY** for healing for those infected; protection for those who are not; for a vaccine to be discovered soon, and for the COVID-19 pandemic to end.
- **PRAYER** If you need prayer, email your requests to prayer@fpchawaii.org. Let's also continue to pray for the pandemic to end.