

# PRAY FOR THOMAS & ANGIE CASTELLAW MISSIONARIES IN HAWAII



September - October 2024

Dear praying brethren,

It's a really strange phenomena that time goes so much quicker as you age. It feels like I just put out my last prayer letter two weeks ago but it's been two months already. This round, I'm going to give a little more emphasis to Angie's activities:

Angie has repeatedly presented Germany in our local libraries and takes COMPLETE liberty to integrate a gospel witness each time, using segues like Martin Luther or the chaplain at the Nuremberg Trials or even just her own salvation testimony. From this open door, she has now been invited to go into her first (public) middle school in December. Angie is a "foreigner" and kind of innocently nerdy which makes her exotic to the "natives" here. Remember these efforts in prayer.

We continue to go out on the street every Friday. It's nothing like it was in Germany but we do get shakas, thumbs up (and other raised fingers) each time we go. At the White Throne Judgement, no one who drove through the main thoroughfare in our years here can say, "I never knew". Just the other day, Angie had a stranger ask her, "Aren't you the woman with the Jesus sign?" People are starting to recognise us.

She also ran into the wife of a couple who visited months ago when we tracted the entire neighborhood. The lady introduced herself (Angie didn't recognize her at first) and told us she would have loved to stay but her husband refuses to believe the King James Bible. She said she is very happy to see us out on the street regularly. Here are Christians sitting on the sidelines, "happy" that others are serving God, but not willing (or able?) to join in...

Angie is actively trying to create witnessing opportunities via social media, through her being a German and through the bookstore. She recently connected with a vacationing family from Switzerland. She played their concierge for a day in order to be able to witness to them. FACT: Europeans respond to the gospel better OUT of their country than IN it. Likewise, there's a new German lady on the island whom Ang is supposed to meet with tomorrow. After being here four years now, we can show people around and help orient them. Obviously we use this in an attempt to reach their souls. Pray for this nuanced approach.

Angie is LOVING having her little bookstore up and going. Again, she's using social media to offer targeted books and home schooling materials. Each potential buyer comes to the church building and spends time speaking with her. From this, one woman has visited the church with her two nieces; another man announced that he is interested in coming after his wife has recovered from delivering their first baby. Please pray for the bookstore to bear fruit here.

We are also experimenting with Angie being part of a small home-schooling group and allowing them to use our church for their weekly meetings starting November. We're obviously hoping to meet new conservative people and perhaps win some.

I said it years ago and can say it again with all confidence: "Supporting the Castellaws is a two-for-one special!"

In other news: The Wisneski family from WI are steadily witnessing to all their family back "home" and it's a joy to watch the Lord use them to win their own. We're happy to report and petition your prayer for Maeve's uncle who just trusted Jesus as his Saviour. Bro. W's brother is also close to getting saved. Please pray for him.

A pastor called me and told me of his son stationed just down the road from our church. He has come to every service for weeks now and has brought two of the young fellas in his Engineer unit. (I was in the 16th Engineers a LONG time ago.) One blond friend from KY parties hard and the other from GA is not coming back because I mentioned politics in a sermon. At 22 years old, he found a "good reason" not to attend a Bible believing church. I'm telling you, this "woke," victimized, entitled generation is going to get a REAL shock when they finally meet our Lord and try these shenanigans on

Him. Remember this sharp PK (preacher's kid) bringing his fellow soldiers in prayer. I wish I had a church full of this kind of zeal and effort.

A well-established brother from another strong Bible believing church got a job on our island and is supposed to be here for the next seven years. He's declared his desire to be part of our church so long as he's here. This is a HUGE answer to prayer. I'm praying the Lord do that about 50 more times before the end of next week! Thank you for praying for us. No doubt there are people out there, we just need divine appointments.

Let me use this next paragraph to state once more how incredibly transient this place is. Over and over again, we meet people, win them to the Lord and/or befriend them and/or attempt to help them in discipleship, only to find out they're leaving or have already left. Coming home from our morning service last Sunday, we saw a boisterous realty sign "OPEN HOUSE" just outside our neighborhood. So before pulling in our driveway, we drove through our neighborhood to see who's selling. Come to find out, a fella whom I've been able to minister to - a fella on my trot line - has up and left, put his house up for sale and *is already out of state*. This neighbor and friend didn't say good bye; he didn't let anyone know. He's on the community board with me and this is how we find out. I feel like I'm on a strange planet.

Soap box moment: Do you stand when a woman approaches the table? Do you look someone in the eye when you shake their hand (entering or leaving)? What happened to basic etiquette and manners in the land of the free and home of the brave?

A good family left our church in April and just found a new church to join. A request for a letter came and I spent about an hour writing a personal letter to the receiving pastor regarding their service, growth, and testimony with us. He wrote me back saying no one does this anymore and thanked me profusely. I long for the old days. I long for heaven. I don't like this world at all. Imagine me in white socks and sandals, shaking my cane in the air and telling you kids to get off my lawn! That's how I feel right about now!

Here is something to pray about: When we started anew in Heidelberg back in 2000, we ran an ad in the local paper and opened our home for an English discussion group. Eleven German strangers showed up. We fed them, watched a Christian movie, and sat around talking about it. Axel was one of them. We became friends and later dive buddies. He left Germany just before us, looking to Canada's freedom as an escape from Germany's increasing oppression. From there, he and his wife want to come visit us next year. For clarity, our relationship has ALWAYS been like this: before our descent (diving the cold lakes of Germany), we'd pray together, "*Lord, thank you for the health to do this. Lord, Axel isn't saved yet - please keep us safe. Please give us a good dive. In Jesus name, amen.*" Axel would amen and we'd go submerge into the icy depths. He is SO close to getting saved (24 years later). He has even said, "*Thomas, I know that if I lived there, I and my wife would "join your community"*". I had a straight talk with him that he doesn't need to be near us to get saved. He complained of having recently done business with a "christian" (wife in a long dress, 10 kids, self-righteous man) who cheated him. My answer: "*Ok, he's a hypocrite. But if you let a hypocrite come between you and Jesus, who's closer to Jesus?*" He grinned and acknowledged that it was a good answer. Pray for my friend Axel. I would be SOOOO happy to see him get saved (and his wife!). He's even entertaining the idea of moving here but I think the cost of living is prohibitive. I feel relatively confident that if he and she come for a visit, they might well very get saved. Help us?

Ok, there's not much room left so let me get this ready for sending off. God bless and keep all of you who are still putting effort into loving Jesus and getting his word published in some way. Jesus HAS to come back soon. 6 of 9 Supreme Court Justices are RC. The future VP crossed over from Evangelical to RC. Elon is merging man and machine. AI is becoming that image that is given life and can speak. We're almost home, boys and girls. Don't quit now! Preach, pray, witness, and do right until HE COMES! *Behold he cometh!!!*

Needs and prayer requests:

- Axel and wife: to visit / get saved
- Electrical permit: God's will...
- Divine appointments: to find those last few hungry souls who are curious about the things of God
- Workers: small team to lay 2500 sq ft of tile in our auditorium.
- SOULS!
- Fruit: be it patience, souls, a good spirit in trials, discipleship, victory in temptation or whatever pleases the Lord and glorifies him.

*Bro. and Sis. Castellaw*