

PRAY FOR THOMAS & ANGIE
CASTELLAW
MISSIONARIES IN HAWAII



January - February 2026

Dear Praying Brethren,

Nine people have trusted the Lord as their Savior since we last wrote, from 8 to 80 years old.

Our Caleb has been a Christian for a little over a year. He is not the most discerning soul-winner yet, albeit an ardent witness at work and at play. He testified in church that he led two youths to the Lord on the basketball court and two soldiers at work. He is now in trouble with the US Army for witnessing for the Lord too much. Please pray for him and for the Lord to use his unashamed witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. I haven't seen this kind of zeal and "persecution" in a long time!

Jürgen P: I hadn't expected "snow birds" here, but sure enough, by now we have a semi-regular flock who descend upon us 1-2 times a year. Not the least of whom is a short 80 yr old man from Germany, who became an American citizen, joined the military and fought with the Special Forces in Vietnam. He is living out his last days with his wife in Oregon and here. They've been to our church at least 4x in the last 5 years. He has come to like me and Angie very much. On his last visit, he approached me in good German form and fashion, "*Pastor, I'm old and when I die, I want you to bury me here on island.*" I responded with equal directness, knowing that I'm speaking with a real German, "*Jürgen, do you want me to lie or tell the truth at your funeral!?*"

Jürgen, "*What do you mean by that?*"

Me: "*Well, I don't know where you're going when you die so we'll need to settle that so I can tell your family the truth.*" He gladly agreed and we met a few days later at my home. I ripped a 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper into 8 pieces and wrote various virtues on them: baptism, giving money, going to church, Jesus (death, burial, resurrection), helping people, etc. I laid them out before him and asked if these were "buttons" to get into heaven's door, which ones would he choose and in what order. With the sincerity of a child, he slowly and thoughtfully ended up picking all eight. I asked why and then showed him some Bible verses. I reset the board and asked him to pick again based on what he saw in the Bible. He then picked three. We did this three times. I never "coached" him but simply showed him the Scripture. In the end, he dogmatically chose "Jesus" and none others. I reasoned with him, even (lightly) debating with him that the others might indeed be useful. He insisted, "*If the Bible says 'not of works' all of these other things are works, so ALL I NEED IS JESUS - HE IS THE KEY TO THE DOOR*". I then showed him that Jesus was the Door too! What a joy to watch him get it. I asked if he wanted to close the deal by asking the Lord to save him. He jumped at the chance and with great joy, in his own words, articulating all he just learned, asked Jesus to save him. What a joy to hear a voice with that strong Teutonic inflection call upon the Lord.

Juan: Bro. Omar (saved here in 06/2024) happily returned from his 6 month tour in the orient and has brought since three Marines to church. The tallest of them, 6'5" Juan, asked to speak with me after a Sunday morning service. "*My life is on the wrong path, I'm [messed] up and I need something but I don't know what it is.*" 40 minutes later Juan was asking Jesus to save him. Now... he's come back to church three times but is still flirting with sin. I don't like to see this and hope his salvation really "took". Pray the Lord keep dealing with him.

Grace: For about a year, Angie has been working with an eight year old girl who just wasn't understanding salvation. She carefully and thoughtfully worked with her until Grace finally got it and asked the Lord to save her. After church, Grace excitedly went around to *everybody*, testifying that she had just gotten saved. In the end, she looked sad that there weren't more people around whom she could tell.

Randy and Barb (more snow birds) are the parents of a wonderful couple saved here 3 years ago. At the end of their January visit, both got saved. They have since found a Baptist church near their Wisconsin dairy farm. In order to be able to tell the church there that he is a Christian, Randy wrote down this testimony: *“I was a practicing Catholic my whole life. I married my wife, Deb who was also Catholic. After her death in October 2015, I felt lost and slowly went away from the Catholic ways. I didn’t really feel like I belonged. I never stopped believing in God. In 2025, while visiting my daughter Louise and her family, I went to their church and felt a connection to the church and how it was taught from the Bible. During this visit, Louise planted the seed about wanting me to be saved and be sure I was going to heaven. I went home and continued to think about what Louise had said about being saved. Over the next year, it was on my mind a lot. I thought because I am Catholic, say prayers, and attend church that I would go to heaven for sure. Then, I started doubting myself a lot. Time passed, and we went to visit Louise and family again. We went to church with them again and developed a connection with the church. A couple of days later, Pastor Thomas Castellaw came to their house to see if I had any questions. He was able to answer all of my questions. On January 29th, 2026, I was sitting on the park bench watching my grandkids play nearby. I said to Louise, “I’m ready to be saved,” I prayed to the Lord to save me. Oh what an amazing feeling overwhelmed me. I felt like the Lord was sitting next to me.”*

Wedding vows: In late December, I preached the gospel to 150 people when a couple in our church got married. Before officiating the wedding, I sang the same song as I did at our wedding 33 years ago, *“You’re invited to a wedding that will be held soon. We are the bride, Christ is the groom. With a crown to wear and long white robe, we’ll march down the aisle, made of pure gold.”* Many positively commented that it was different than they’d ever seen. A gospel quote from my sermon even made it into the professional wedding video and will continue to witness for the Lord Jesus for generations to come.

First sermon: Elijah is the oldest of three brothers. The whole family testifies that they were greatly helped in their three years with us. Unfortunately, they were transferred back to the mainland two years ago. He turned 16, got his driver’s license and dad sent me pictures of him preaching his first sermon at their local nursing home in West Virginia. We sure wish that they were still with us. I can’t wait to hear of Jeremiah (the second brother) preaching his first. Pray for these young boys. There are not many like them on the earth today.

New skillset: One of the three men called to preach in our church went home to OH, preached in his home church using newly learned skills from our *Preparation and Delivery* course and did very well. He and his wife have said (with plenty of others) if they could afford to stay here after their time in the military they would, but it’s just too expensive. He and two others have successfully completed *Preparation and Delivery of Sermons* and are currently taking *Evangelistic Song Leading*.

It’s been a great two months. I wish more of my prayer letters sounded like this one. Thank you for helping us be here. Please continue to ask the Lord to give us more people *who live here and/or can stay*. Our church will empty out and start all over in less than 12 months.

Sincerely in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Bro. Castellaw