

# ALOHA KE AKUA

"GOD IS LOVE" - Light in Darkness  
December 2018

Building spiritual movements everywhere so that everyone know someone who truly follows Jesus

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5*

This was a picture taken and a post written beautifully by one of my team leaders who came on this trip with us. "

*This student is upside down and under water and in a country that we just got back from. We were part of a team doing ministry, loving God and loving people, in a country that does not love God and does not have systems that love people. It's a country that has replaced its freedom with security; so freedom of religion and freethinking are very discouraged by the government. We experienced constant surveillance. We prayed this promise from Jesus, over and over again, in multiple languages: In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

- Jess Arita



**Top Left:** Our team of 14 from all over the US was a huge blessing for this trip. What a joy to come together on mission, to pray, cry, laugh, and enjoy good food was a definite highlight. We experienced some unexpected roadblocks on this trip and to see our team rally and support one another was a testimony of God's heart for his people. **Top Middle:** Jon (my co-leader) and I with our National Staff team. Please pray for these men and women as they trust God with serving on staff full time. Pray that he would use them to raise up more Christians in this nation. Pray for their financial support and that God would move in mighty ways as they continue to say yes to him. **Top Right:** I had the privilege of meeting these two students for multiple hours over the few days we were there to hear their stories, answer their questions, and share the love and light of Jesus with them! Pray that they would continue to be surrounded by Christian friends who would lead them to full surrender in Christ.

Happy New Year and thank you for praying for this trip. It opened my eyes to see what God is doing in and throughout this country. Many times I was moved to tears when the National Staff would share their stories of coming to faith because Americans came to share with them. There is much persecution happening and I felt like I've seen the climate of this place changing from openness to skepticism over the last few years. Pray that the Lord would bring revival and his Holy Spirit would fall like rain in this place at this moment. Now is the time and there is light in the midst of darkness!

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We envision Asian American movements mobilized to take our place in God's redemptive mission, and 1) seeing they have a unique place in missions history and the future of missions, 2) that they are bridge-builders - representing both the empowered and the powerless of society, and 3) they are coming together, fully surrendered, actively engaged in God's work.

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