

Thank you for your generosity and giving towards another successful summer missions trip! Leading this summer was so much fun and it was definitely another learning experience! Our summer consisted of 25 students and 15 staff from all over the nation (Hawaii, California, Washington, Texas, Chicago, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, New York, and Virginia). Here are two stories from two students who experienced radical life change through your giving and prayers! So grateful for your partnership and getting to impact the world through this next generation of college students with vou!

Coming into Hawaii Summer Project, I knew that I would have been taking a big leap of faith in trusting that God would provide and mold me in any way that he desired. I expected my experience to be one of tremendous personal growth, new friendships, and an opportunity to see God's work on the island. As I'm reflecting back on the past 6 weeks, project has provided me all of these expected experiences and with something more than what I could have possibly imagined. God was able to use project as a chance for me to recognize the gospel for the first time and respond.

This recognition of the gospel came after the first week of extensive Evangelism training. During training, I learned how to initiate spiritual conversations with strangers using several different tools as well as sharing the gospel. Initially, I was terrified at the idea of having to go out and talk to complete strangers about my faith. It felt unnatural and was out of my comfort zone. My first experience initiating a spiritual conversation on project provided me with a positive outlook on how fruitful these conversations could be. It allowed me to see that God was able to use my personal experiences to connect and share with strangers who had similar stories. As I challenged myself to share the gospel during these spiritual conversations, I realized that the gospel was still foreign to me. I've heard different aspects of the gospel for the past 2 years that I was in community with Christians, usually at church through sermons about our salvation and grace, but this had been my first time hearing the gospel presented as itself and in whole. This thought was extremely unsettling.

I was able to share with Jess, a staff on project, about my previous lack of understanding of the gospel. Jess helped me come to the realization that I had missed out on the most important foundation of Christianity, and that being the gospel. We were both speechless. On project, I was given the chance to know Jesus and responded in praying to receive him into my life.

As God continued to reveal more of his story to me through small groups, teammates, staff, serving for sports camp, and evangelizing in Hawaii, it all began to click. The gospel meant much more to me as I began to understand that God had redeemed and saved me by sending Jesus Christ as my savior. For once, I was certain that my faith was in Jesus Christ.



## Kim Tran // Senior, UC Santa Barbara

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Bringing God's heart of 'ohana to the Campus, the Islands, and the Nations by building spiritual movements everywhere so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus

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