

ALOHA KE AKUA

“GOD IS LOVE” – Leadership Retreat
May 2015

A dream turned into reality.

Last summer, I had heard of another organization that puts on a yearly leadership training camp for their students and I was inspired. I thought what a great idea and began to dream about Epic starting a leadership retreat for all our student leaders, especially those who lead on campuses without staff. A retreat where our student leaders would be poured into, filled and refreshed by older staff. A retreat where they could cross ideas, encouragement, and frustrations with other student leaders just like them. A retreat where they could just be appreciated and given back to.

I began to talk with one of my mentors and dreaming with her. In her constant support, encouragement, and belief in me, started to think this could actually happen sooner than later. In January after Epic Conference, I sat down with Jill, an MTL from the Southwest SoCal team and began to share my heart and vision for this thing. In the midst of her own busyness and transition, she really got excited and jumped on board with me! We started talking to more staff on our Epic Field Ministry team and before we knew it, we were planning our first ever Epic Leadership Retreat!

We weren't sure what to expect or how many to expect in light of it being the end of the school year. Students are busy, their burnt out from ministry, they've spent a lot of money already, and really, a lot of them are just tired of going to so many conferences and retreats throughout the year. We wanted to trust the Lord though and believe that what He had given us was good and we would just need to take steps of faith.

This past weekend, May 29-31, we had 87 staff and students from all over our West Coast campuses come together for a weekend of simply connecting with Jesus and with each other. We focused on our soul connection to the Lord and that being the most important part of ministry. That we are first called to Jesus before we are called to any organization or ministry. We spent lots of time giving room for personal reflection, prayer, soul connection seminars, and ministry workshops.

Even now, as I sit back, look at this picture, and reflect on this past weekend, I can't believe it actually happened! It's so crazy to me how the Lord can give such a big dream and in my inadequacy and brokenness, use me to lead and to do it with His strength! All to say, we were blown away by such an incredible weekend and the feedback we got! We are looking forward to where this retreat will go and how it will grow over the next few years. We're excited to see how we can continually remind students that ministry doesn't have to be hard and exhausting, but rather a blessing as an overflow of their relationships with their first love!

Thank you for your continual prayers and financial giving!!
I look back and its because of how many of you really believe in me that allows me to keep going in this!!
I am grateful.



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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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