

ALOHA KE AKUA

"GOD IS LOVE" – God's Provisions
November 2017

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

This November, we had our annual Vision Dinner! It was my first one being back in California. Personally, it was an amazing time for me to invite some of you for the first time to come and really see what I am a part of firsthand. Thank you for coming! That night really reminded me of what I do, God's provisions, faithfulness, and work in the lives of his people. We raised a total of \$72,000 and with that, I am excited to see how God will use this to further his Kingdom. I wanted to share a testimony from that evening. I am so grateful to serve alongside each of you. Thank you for your eternal impact in my life and the lives of many others.

I grew up in a Buddhist and a non-practicing Catholic household. I always knew there was a God, but I was never allowed to admit it in my family. My parents had me when they were sixteen and I was always told I was an accident from friends and family, but I brushed it aside. I always questioned my existence, wondering why I was here if I never felt loved and if I really was an accident. I struggled with my identity, trying to figure out my worth when all I knew was what others told me. I fell into depression and covered my everyday life with a smiles and jokes. Though my whole life I was oblivious to seeing God knocking on my heart, having to go to church with friends, going to Young Life, and being invited to a Christian camps, but I kept avoiding it because I was not allowed to believe in God.

I came to college wanting to learn more about God, but thought I was too old to pursue God. On freshmen welcome week I saw a table called Cru giving out bags and like everyone else I filled out a form for a free bag. A week later someone on staff with Cru shared the Gospel with me and I said YES and never turned back; all because I was told I was loved unconditionally and there was a plan for my life.

I got connected in to Cru and Epic that year and I felt like a changed person, I was more joyful and comfortable because I found my identity in Christ and not what others said about me. I was able to embrace my culture, not being afraid of whom I was. Epic showed me Christ through an Asian American lens that spoke straight to my heart, allowing me to dive deeper in my relationship with God.

A year has past since I came to Christ and God used me that year to bring 3 girls to Christ and co-lead a freshman Bible Study. After a semester of being bullied for my faith at work, for a solid month random coworkers would come up to me and ask to go to church with me because they simply just had a feeling to ask me and knew I was involved with a Christian Club on campus. Also coming from a family skeptical of Christianity, they allowed me to go on an eight-week mission trip because they said they've seen a change in me and all of a sudden felt comfortable with me going. That change was nothing I could fake, but God took my life and showed me what it looked like to love others and be a light in the darkness.

My journey as a believer has been less than 3 years, but it has been so fast paced and I've seen God continuously working in my life. I now have a heart to love others and share the good news, because how can you hate someone so much that you don't want to share the good news with them? 2 years ago if you asked me who I was I would've said an accident waiting for change, now I can confidently say I am a child of God.

Leilani Saelaw, Junior @ San Jose State

Photo: Leilani, me, Jerry (campus team leader I coach)



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We envision Asian American students and faculty whose lives have been transformed by the Gospel, and who are 1) growing in their understanding of and relationship with Jesus Christ, 2) embracing the value of their culture through Christ's redemptive love, and 3) taking their in God's redemptive plan by building missional movements that impact their families, peers, community, and world with the power of the Gospel.

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