

The Hawaii Journal

The view from my
Kaua'i bedroom.

July 2020



Island-Hopping: From Java to Kaua'i

Nearly 3 months ago, I (Dr. Sharon) had to leave Mama Hana of Yayasan Pondok Kasih (YPK), *The House of Love Foundation*. My visa was expiring, my tickets had been purchased, and our Ambassador was strongly recommending all US citizens come home. The pandemic slammed the door behind me, and till today, Indonesia's borders remain closed to foreigners.

Admittedly, if I had to be stuck somewhere, Kaua'i is a great place to be. I miss serving alongside Mama, but know I'm exactly where I need to be.



Mandatory 2-Week Quarantine

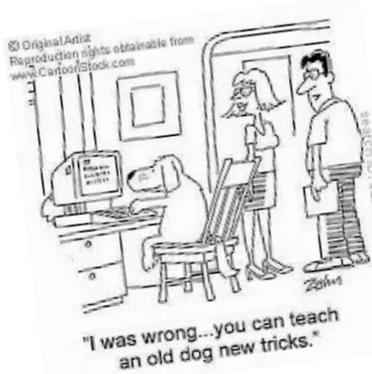


A big shout out to my friends and family who made sure I never lacked for anything and to the Police and National Guard who randomly came to check that I stayed home.

Kaua'i has one of the lowest Coronavirus rates in the world. We have also been spared the violence that has spread across much of our nation. But the plus side for doctors, nurses, and their patients, has meant a downside of financial and emotional hardship for many.

Spreading Da Aloha

With sweat, strained muscles, and bellyaching laughter, I've been trying to keep up with my ministry buddies, Clayton, Shelly and their team, in procuring, preparing, and distributing food for hungry Kauaians.



I also had the new experience of sharing with groups via live-streaming and video-recording. If you're interested, contact me and I'll send you the links so you can watch this old dog perform her new tricks.

"Lazarus, Come Forth"



Nan, a longtime friend on Kaua'i earned her nickname, Lazarus, a couple of years ago, when an aneurysm burst in her brain and she was medivac'd to Honolulu for emergency surgery. She recovered so well that she was able to return to work, help her family, dance hula, and bake baklava.

That episode was a harbinger for a massive second hemorrhagic stroke two months ago. This time, her injury was declared "non-survivable" and Nan was sent home with hospice care. But God saw our grief and heard our prayers and



"Lazarus" did it again. Nan is the rare graduate from Hospice to Home Health Care. She can walk, talk, feed herself, argue, and crack jokes but not yet make baklava.



God has turned our mourning into dancing. To Him be the glory.

Please pray for Nan, her family, and her therapists as she continues to heal and get better.

Meanwhile...



In Indonesia, new Coronavirus cases and devastating economic hardship are surging. Recently, I heard about friends and acquaintances dying, YPK staff salaries being cut, and donations dropping, even as experts predict that the worst is yet to come with no end in sight. Moreover, this means, only God knows when I'll be able to return. For several days, the devastating news left me feeling utterly helpless and uncommonly sad.

Until I remembered with just 2 fish and 5 loaves Jesus fed 5000 families, and He is still in the miracle-working business. Mama and I alone absolutely don't have what it takes to provide for the needy multitudes. However, joining with you, I know we can whip up something to give to Jesus which He will bless and multiply.

Hi-Ho, The Derry-O



I realize now that what appeared to be the “New Normal’s” recipe for defeat is actually a fresh dish of opportunity. In this season of the “New Extraordinary”, GoHawaii (GH) and YPK are set to incorporate potentially game-changing development and discipleship principles into the already robust humanitarian programs of YPK.

LIFE IS TOO
SHORT
TO BE
NORMAL

A Model Keyhole Garden

A **Keyhole Garden (KG)** is one of the food security projects that our friends, Uncle Hal and Lana of GHNI, teach around the world. KG’s can flourish through drought or flood and grow healthy food for a family of ten. We challenged the YPK Community Education (CE) team to build a model Keyhole Garden as part of YPK’s **Manna 4 All** program. As our garden thrives, we believe others will naturally want to learn to grow their own food.

How To and Why You Should Build a Keyhole Garden

- ▶ Each keyhole garden has a composting basket built into its center extending 30 cm above the soil.
- ▶ This gives the garden a keyhole shape when viewed from above.
- ▶ The garden uses a number of layers to retain moisture and nourish the soil, making it more productive than a conventional garden.
- ▶ The composting basket replenishes the soil’s nutrients as well.
- ▶ The garden is made from materials that are all available at low cost.



Why start with them? Because the YPK Community Education team members are lovers of God, work well together and with others, and are able to teach. None of them are farmers by background or inclination but all are eager learners, hard workers, and joyful colleagues. Due to the current financial crisis, last month, these 8 friends of mine were asked to work full-time at half their usual salaries till the year’s end. Ouch. Faithful to God’s call to serve disadvantaged children, they agreed, but wondered how they would meet their own family’s needs.

GoHawaii has engaged this dream team and has committed to supplement their income through 2020 as they fulfill their usual work responsibilities while also teaching their coworkers, family, neighbors, and students how to enjoy **Manna 4 All**, i.e., food and spiritual security.



Red Ginger Project



Watch a video about the thousands of red ginger plants that GoHawaii is helping to grow as a crop that gives YPK Community Development leader, Andres, a platform for developing poor communities, sharing the good news, making disciples, and Lord-willing turning a good profit. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYP3K4Aaz_s

Jesus with Skin

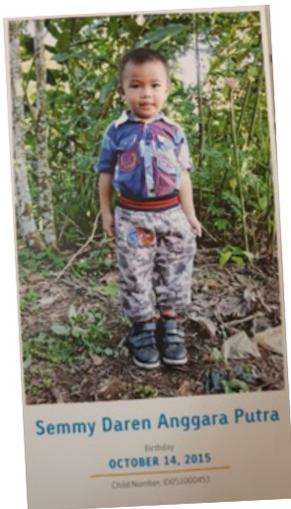
If the Good Samaritan were a modern Indonesian, I think he'd look a lot like my friend Maria. If she could, Mama Hana says this is the YPK member she would love to shadow. Wherever Maria goes, she helps the poor, sick, and outcasts, with national ID, health insurance, medical care, informal education, food, shelter, prayer, and words of life. But her car is old and dilapidated. She is trusting God for a reliable vehicle.



Dr. Sharon's Indonesian Son, Daren

Who knew giving birth could be so easy? Out of the blue, my friend Rose asked if I would "adopt" a young Indonesian boy. She had already paid for his sponsorship but Daren needed someone who would pray for and correspond with him. Who could resist this cutie patootie? The deal was sealed when I learned his Compassion International contact is an old family friend, Marie Lehman Hagen, whose parents served at Kapaa MC.

On the Compassion International website, I discovered many needy Indonesian children have been waiting interminably for help. Maybe you're God's answer. <https://www.compassion.com/about/where/indonesia-facts.htm>



Congratulations on making it to the end of this lengthy report. You deserve a medal!

Mama Hana, those we help, and I thank you for letting us serve on your team.

*Hit **reply** to request removal from this email list, to send a word of encouragement, or to express interest in a GoHawaii project.*