

## **Phil & Cindy Returning to Hawaii to Plant a Church**

How's that for an attention getting headline? Actually I couldn't think of another way to break the news. It is true, after 15 years of ministry with Word of Life, Cindy and I resigned to pursue a church plant ministry on the Big Island (Hawaii) of Hawaii.

### **The Last 15 Years**

We would like to say that the last 15 years have been wonderful and incredible ones. We have loved every minute of our time with Word of Life. Back in 1989, when we were accepted onto staff and appointed to Illinois, we left our "Comfort Zone" in Indiana to begin our ministry with churches and leaders from central Illinois and Metro St. Louis. Over the years thousands of children and teens have come to Jalopy Raids, FasCar Rallies, Basketball Marathons, Superbowls and other events to hear the gospel, with many making life changing decisions. We have had the pleasure of interacting with leaders to instill passion for daily quiet time, scripture memory, bible study and many other points of discipleship. We have had the privilege of working alongside of wonderful churches, pastors and youth pastors. It has always been our prayer and desire to influence those around us to a closer walk with Jesus Christ. WOL gave us the chance to do just that on a large scale.

We would like to thank Mike Calhoun and Word of Life for the opportunity to serve in such a dynamic ministry. It has been a privilege to server with a staff of Godly people who have a great passion for the things of Christ. We love WOL and I suppose we will always be "Word of Lifers."

One thing that must not go without saying, is the importance of raising our kids as missionaries with WOL. We could not begin to list the names of people who have impacted our kids for Jesus. The principles and passion they have learned has been invaluable.

Once again God has moved us out of our "Comfort Zone" into an exciting new ministry. But why, you may ask? Turn the page and we will attempt to answer your questions!

### **Why the Change?**

For a few years now, I have thought about being in a pastor/teacher role. Opportunities have come up but I never had a peace about leaving WOL. In fact, until last year I never imagined doing anything but WOL, I enjoy it that much. After our anniversary trip back to Hawaii in February 2003 I started to think about moving back. Cindy however was not ready to leave the kids, grandkids and our ministry with WOL, so I basically forgot about it. At Christmas time, Cindy told me the Lord had given her a peace about going to Hawaii for ministry. Then I started to think about it seriously again and went into my "Talk God out of it" mode. I asked God, "Why I would want to leave a ministry I love where things are going

rather well, leave our family, leave the St. Louis area where we had just moved, to move 5000 miles away to do something I have never done before, like plant a church?" Thus began a period of wrestling with God. The more I prayed the more I wanted to go and I begged God to show me what to do. To which I think He was saying, "I'm trying." Once I said yes I would go, I had complete rest and peace. God was moving us into a new ministry.

**Do you know anyone on the Big Island?**

Not a soul. I have spoken with 2 pastors on the Island and they are looking forward to us coming.

**Are there many churches there?**

Not really, just a handful.

**Can we come and visit?**

Absolutely! We are looking forward to guests from the mainland

**Are you going through a mission board?**

**No**, We are being sent as independent missionaries through:

**Fellowship Baptist Church in Mt. Zion, IL**

They will handle our spiritual & ministry accountability.

**Will you still need Support?**

**YES!** We will continue as faith based missionaries

**How will your support be handled?**

Central Missionary Clearinghouse of Houston, Tx will process our finances. They will issue tax deductible receipts each month. They also provide financial accountability for IRS concerns.

**How can we support you?**

If you are not currently a regular supporter a slip and envelope have been enclosed. Simply fill out the slip and mail it.

Please do not put our name anywhere on your check. If you do, the IRS is not obligated to recognize it as tax deductible. **Please make check payable to:**

**CMC**

**How much support do you need?**

Because the Lord has promised to meet all of our needs, whatever comes in that month is what the Lord thinks we need.

**We have set \$4,200 as our support goal.** If we keep most of our current support we will only need to raise an additional \$1,000 per month!

**Do you need any startup funds?**

**YES!** **We have a goal of \$10,000**

It will be used for:

- Shipment of personal items
- Airfare
- Housing
- Purchase of a car

If you would like to contribute please write "startup fund" on your check.  
Thank you!

**Do you know what town you are going to?**

No. Please pray that God would lead us to the right town.

**When are you leaving?**

Our target date is: **January 3, 2005**

Between now and then we will be busy raising additional support.

However, our plan is to leave January 3<sup>rd</sup> no matter how much support we have.