



## The Winds Christian Camp

### Letter to Counselors

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Aloha! I would like to be the first to tell you Mahalo Nui Loa, or Thank you very much for agreeing to pray about coming to Hawaii to minister with me this summer. I've included in this little packet of information: the setting of the Winds Christian Camp and also the Expectations of the Winds Christian Camp, but before I get to all of the important stuff I just want to say a few things. I grew up at this camp and I love its ministry for the youth of Hawaii. I have seen in my own life how the Lord has used

the Winds to change my life to be more like Christ. Our ministry this summer will focus on the kids will be at camp but at the same time I am confident that God will use this experience to draw you closer to Him. I see Hawaii as my Jerusalem and am thoroughly excited to tell you about the “most coolest” camp ever: The Winds Christian Camp.

The Winds exists “to provide a unique setting and program through which the Holy Spirit can confront the individual with the claims of Christ and excite potential leaders with their God-given task. We will accomplish this by using a quality, trained staff and the out of doors to evangelize and edify, all to the glory of God.” Looking at our surroundings in the beautiful Island of Hawaii, provides a truly unique setting, in which we use a trained staff and creation to confront the youth of Hawaii with the claims of Christ and to excite them about serving God with whatever He may call them to do. This is our goal for the Winds Christian Camp, and through your help and through the grace of God we will accomplish this goal.

You might be thinking to yourself, “Camp in Hawaii it sounds more like a vacation than a ministry!” However, before anything else is said let us get all of the cards out on the table. Hawaii is a beautiful place filled with beautiful people, but like anywhere else it's got its problems. Here are just a few statistics to give you a feel of life in Hawaii and specifically in the Puna district.

*The state of Hawaii is in economic depression. Across the state many small independent business owners have been forced to close or consolidate, and employment opportunities have hit an incredible low. The state's per capita income has decreased over the past years. The Big Island of Hawaii is home to 11% of the state's population (149, .000 people), but has the third highest rate of unemployment (almost three times the state average), and 36% of its population is receiving governmental food support. Hawaii Christian Camping Association is located in the Puna District on the eastern side of the Big Island. Socioeconomic factors of the*

*Puna District are listed below.*

- *Highest rate of alcohol and substance abuse in the state*
- *Highest rate of AIDS cases in the state*
- *Second highest rate of births to unwed mothers (2 times the state average for births to 17 & under)*
- *Highest proportion of students under 18 years of age*
- *Highest rate of domestic complaints*
- *Increasing rate of cases in family court relating to domestic violence*
- *Increasing suicide rate with 21% of all attempted suicides by children under the age of 18*
- *Lowest per capita income in the state (\$10,965)*
- *More than half of the population is below 200% of the federal poverty level*

*Despite grim statistics, the Puna District is the fastest growing area in the state due to affordable land and housing costs, which may be up to 50% cheaper than other areas. The 2000 US Census listed the area's population at 31,335.*

*Though population has increased, the necessary community activities and adequate infrastructure have not been developed to meet the needs of the area.*

*In recent years, residents have been seeing the effects of "ice" or crystal methamphetamine.*

*Some have found a way to "prosper" in paradise by setting up production laboratories; others have found the drug to be helpful in drowning sorrows away.*

*Hawaii Christian Camping Association is a non-profit organization that services the Puna District all year. One of HCCA's ministries, Christian Liberty School & Academy, is the only private, Christian school in the district, and the only Christian high school on the eastern side of the island. During the academic year, Christian Liberty seeks to minister to the community, families, and individual students through school hosted activities and personal contact.*



Camp will run for a five week session beginning Monday June 15- July 18<sup>th</sup>. Week one is dedicated to staff training as well as sightseeing in the afternoons. Basically we'll be in the classroom setting for the morning, and then in the afternoon spend some time seeing the beautiful island of Hawaii. Week two is Vacation Bible School at Puna Covenant Church in the morning followed by Christian Liberty Academy in the afternoon. During this week we will begin program preparation for the last two weeks of overnight camp.

The week following VBS will be spent on the road travelling around the island sponsoring youth activities called the Storm. These events will be one day activities used to evangelize the lost and also to promote camp. We will be partnering with local churches around the island.

The last two weeks are dedicated to overnight camp. Our first week of overnight camp is Junior week, focused on third through eighth graders. This week is followed by a senior week focused on ninth through twelfth grade students. After camp is over and everything is put away for the summer we'll spend some time together as a staff relaxing after a good season of camp and also getting back with some of our campers and encouraging them in their walk with the Lord. We are looking for 6 counselors for this summer. Counseling is a great opportunity for the Lord to show you how you really need His strength and His

grace. We are not looking for “super Christians” but for those who are continuing to grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As far as finances are concerned we would ask that each staff member be willing to raise some support for the summer, through a local church or some other opportunity. I would love to tell you right now that the camp would pay to fly you out to Hawaii, but that is not possible. Working at this particular camp is a complete ministry; we cannot afford to pay for your travel expenses. Once in Hawaii, you will not need money for anything except spending money, all of your expenses will be taken care of. I know finances is a large part of the summer season, so all that I can say is that God knows what He is doing, and if He wants you to be in Hawaii to serve at the Winds Christian Camp then nothing can get in His way. God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, the earth and everything in it is His. I would ask you to start to pray about this right now, our God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and if it is His will for you to travel to Hawaii, then nothing including finances can get in the way.

The people of Hawaii and specifically the people on the Big Island need the good news of Jesus Christ. What an opportunity for those of us who have the truth to share it with those who need it very much! Like I said before Hawaii is a beautiful place and it has been my home for the past 27 years. I see Hawaii as my Jerusalem and am excited about getting to know you better. I would ask that you begin to seriously pray about coming out to Hawaii to minister with us. Thank you very much and if you have any questions please feel free to call me or email me anytime.

**Mikey Chai**