The Hawaii Journal

March 2023

During our darkest seasons, Christ's light shines brightest.

From day one, GoHawaii's partners have been sending aid to earthquake-stricken northwest Syria.

Last week, at risk of personal health and safety, they went to comfort and assist the survivors.



Maximizing Syrian Earthquake Relief



A month has passed but the nightmare remains. In northwest Syria, thousands of children are orphaned. Thousands of families are homeless. Adding insult to injury, survivors continue to be traumatized both by the earth's and their emotional aftershocks.

In Lebanon, Dr. Sharon's

partners/friends at **Together For the Family (TFF)** are heartbroken. Most of the staff and students are Syrian refugees and many came from the parthquake zone



the earthquake zone and

have lost close family members.

Together they are finding healing at TFF's Family Oasis

Ministry Center sewing warm pajamas to send to Syrian kids.

GoHawaii will continue to provide assistance and lasting hope through our partners in Lebanon and Syria. How your donations have been utilized thus far:

Project Location Aleppo-Homs, Syria				
Title	REF	Description		Line Total
Blankets		900 Pieces	\$	8,100.00
Jackets		For adults and children- 110 pieces	\$	550.00
Hand-sewed Pajamas		Sewed pajamas at the center and packed- 200 pieces	\$	1,000.00
Hygiene Packs		Sanitizers- Hang-gels and - 200 pieces	\$	1,000.00
Babies packs		Babies blankets and clothes- 100 pieces	\$	1,000.00
Scarfs for women		120 Pieces	\$	360.00
Snacks and Chocolate		Chocolate wafers, bars, and wafers, cakes, chips and others	\$	500.00
Bed-sheets		Bed Sheets- 60 pieces	\$	240.00
Whoolhats		Hand-sewed whoolhats- 260 pieces	\$	780.00
Tuna canned		400 Pieces	\$	388.00
Sardines canned		400 Pieces	\$	320.00
Proccessed Meet		400 Pieces	\$	496.00
Hommus Canned		400 Pieces	\$	260.00
Tranportation		Van- 2 Trucks- and 4 times cars transportation		950

Donate on-line using the QR code or link:

https://wpartners.info/syrianearthquake

Or send a check to:

MC Hawaii District GoHawaii PO Box 1259 Lawai, HI 96765



Not all the damage from the disaster is physical. Money can't solve the deepest problems. When **Izdihar** visited the earthquake zone last month she found many survivors are overwhelmed by grief and cannot be coaxed or



coerced to move from their makeshift beds or even speak.

Like the whole world, Lebanon and Syria need a Rock and Salvation, an unshakable Fortress.

Dr. Sharon, What Did You Do in Indonesia?



I could almost answer, "Everything," and not be fibbing. During my visit last October, I spent much of my time just catching up with Mama Hana, founder & president of Yayasan Pondok Kasih (YPK), "The House of Love".

So, when I returned this January, both Mama and I

had big plans. Mostly, I wanted to visit old friends, see how **GoHawaii** funds were being used, and get back into the communities serving the poor. Boy, oh boy, watch out what you ask for! It was like the good ol' days of running from ministry to ministry to keep in step with the Spirit.







Early on Sunday morning, I joined a very happy group at the **YPK Elderly Shelter.** Their **GoHawaii** donation purchased worship instruments and a media system. Now the grannies can enjoy the music and sermon via broadcast and avoid climbing the long and dangerous staircase.



Of all **YPK**'s staff, **Mama** says she would like **Maria**'s job best. **Maria** follows Jesus, sees the outcasts, is moved with compassion, and finds a way to help them. A few years ago, **GoHawaii** bought her a car so she could serve more freely. One day, we zippity-doodahed together. We distributed food parcels in the slums, visited the sick and shut in, enjoyed refreshments at one of the cottage industries she helped start, stopped at the prayer house she runs, looked at the 10 empty houses she has been given to use for the poor, stopped at a farmhouse she hopes will be a new YPK ministry center, and even then, we didn't get to finish her to-do list. She is certainly making the most of every opportunity!

Andres got bit bad. He'll likely never recover. But since he's been infected by disciple-making, it's all good. He's become a champion for the Great Commission.

Years ago, while still on staff with YPK, **Andres** caught the bug at both the **GoHawaii-**sponsored Keystone Project's discipleship training led by **Wayne Allen** and the Evangelistic Bible Study training taught by **Ada Lum**.



In his rural community, **Andres** facilitates a Bible study with a group of men. Together they are exploring how to be the kind of husbands and dads that Jesus would be. His wife, **Ruth**, is leading a ladies' group.



Andres with his discipleship team wife Ruth and daughter Darlene.

Together, they are discipling a vibrant youth group. **Dr. Sharon** visited and shared with this fun bunch. Last month, **Andres** reported that five of these teens were baptized. Please pray for **Andres** as he studies with the Keystone Project Online Academy, begins

selling chocolate drinks to support his family, and continues to make disciples in his community.

With the rich and the poor, in churches and prisons, inside and out, with large groups and small, with and without translation, in Indonesian and in English, sometimes around tables heaped with delicacies and sometimes not, with new friends and old — **Dr. Sharon** found a myriad of ways

and old – **Dr. Sharon** found a myriad of ways to strengthen friendships and partnerships while building God's Kingdom.



Lebanon Update

On February 6th, TFF friends and coworkers were jolted awake by the devastating 7.8 earthquake that struck Syria and Turkey awake 300 miles away. For days after, these Lebanese communities, in freezing winter weather, slept in their cars or on the street to try and feel safe.

Buildings have been destroyed, lives have been torn apart. More than 50,000 have died, thousands are missing, thousands are homeless, and millions are grieving.

Lebanon is in the midst of an on-going and ever worsening economic crisis. Their currency has lost more than 98% of its value and more than 80% of its population has plunged into poverty.

These problems are far too large for little ol' **GoHawaii** to fix. But we don't go alone. Emmanuel, i.e., God is with us. We don't serve alone. You're welcome to join through your prayers and gifts.

Matthew 19:26: *But Jesus looked at them and said,* 'With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible.'

Pray for Dr. Sharon in Lebanon (March 13 – 27)

- As she visits the Boys Club and TFF Family Oasis
- While she listens to, processes, and writes down the stories of those whose lives have been transformed through TFF
- As she comforts and assists earthquake survivors
- As she travels good weather, health, and safety

Dad's Feeling Better!

Last year's radiation therapy for Stage IV Prostate Cancer left Dad exhaust-ed but, praise the Lord, his strength, energy and appetite have been improving in 2023! Thank you for your fervent and effective prayers!



To donate to GoHawaii Projects

Write a check and mail to:
MC Hawaii District GoHawaii
PO Box 1259
Lawai, HI 96765

To support Dr. Sharon

Click on link below or use QR code:

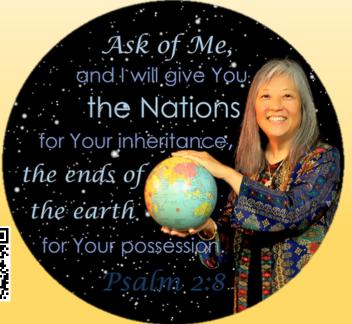
https://wpartners.info/M232 or Write a check and mail to: Key Concepts (M232) PO Box 9282 Ft Wayne, IN 46899



For Syrian Earthquake Relief

Send check to GoHawaii (above) or Click on link below or use QR code: https://wpartners.info/syrianearthquake





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