



Kahu Kalani Wong, KS Maui

²⁰ A 'o ka mea nona ka mana e hana mai ai i nā mea a pau a kākou e noi aku ai, a e mana'o iho ai, a nui loa aku ho'i, ma ka mana e ho'oikaika ana i loko o kākou, ²¹ Iā ia ka ho'onani 'ia aku e ka 'ekalesia ma o Kristo Iesū lā, i nā manawa a pau, ma hope mau loa aku. 'Āmene.- 'Epeso 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, ²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.- Ephesians 3:20-21

We know in our minds that God is an awesome God but how many of you TRULY believe that he still works miracles? Each year since 2004, and up until COVID put a halt to all student travel, Kamehameha Schools has been taking a group of students from the three campuses to Kalaupapa for a mission trip. It is a great opportunity for the haumāna to learn the history of this wahi pana, do service projects around the settlement, lead the worship service, and pay friendly visits to the patients. Each team consisted of students from the three campuses, many who hadn't met their cousins from the other islands. One year I was doing the "welcome to Kalaupapa" briefing in the social hall of Kana'ana Hou Congregational Church. As I explained the rules and expectations, I scanned the team members, trying to connect names with faces. One of the Kapālama students looked super familiar though I knew I had not met her before. After the briefing, I sent them out to start work around the church grounds, being sure they worked alongside someone from another campus.

After about a half hour, Ku'u, from KS Maui and Ipo, from KS Kapālama, (not their real names) came up to me and said, "Kahu, we're sisters!" I looked at them from head to toe, thinking, "Yeah, okay. You look alike dressed in tank tops, both holding pruners, and each of you have your hair up in a bun." They saw the skepticism on my face and promptly began to run down the list of things that they shared a commonality on- a love for hula, what they did in their spare time...including...wait for it...the same father! WHAT?!?! Ku'u's mother had dated a guy while living on O'ahu. They ended breaking up and she moved to Maui, not knowing she had just gotten pregnant. This kane started dating another woman shortly after and got her pregnant. Ku'u grew up not really knowing much about her father except his name. When Ipo shared the name of her father, they was surprised that it was the same man. As they stood before me, explaining this sudden discovery, I quickly realized why Ipo looked familiar...she had the same facial features as Ku'u.

The mission trip was meant to provide an opportunity for the students to make a deeper connection to ke Akua, Kalaupapa, and any family they may have there. Little did I know that it would bring two sisters together. To truly show that only God could have pulled this together, Ku'u was a LAST minute addition at the request of our vice principal. Our God is an AWESOME God!

Believe without a doubt that God is still at work in this world and is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think. Never doubt that God is the God who can part the waters, calm the storms, raise the dead, and bring sisters together. Lift up your concerns to him through prayer and petitions. He will make his will known to you and just maybe, surprise with something greater than you could ever ask for. Ask Ku'u and Ipo!