

Old Providence family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I hope this letter finds you all well. It has been quite some time since I have written an update, and for that I apologize. We have been stationed in Hawaii at Schofield Barracks since July of 2023.

The unit I am serving in is the 225<sup>th</sup> Light Support Battalion (LSB). We have the logisticians, truck drivers, cooks, mechanics and medics in our formation...in my opinion, some of the most unsung heroes in the Army. These men and women do a lot of hard work with very little appreciation for their efforts. And while Hawaii is considered to be paradise by many, it can be especially tough on families. The cost of living here is insane, and the Cost-of-Living Allowance that the Army provides for people living in Hawaii was cut in half at the end of 2023. Many families - especially our junior enlisted - have to receive supplemental help to secure food. Hawaii is also a difficult assignment because of its isolation from the rest of the world. A lot of people feel a bit trapped here and it is very costly to fly back to the mainland, especially if you have a large family. Please be in prayer for our Soldiers and their families.

As part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, we stay "in the field" quite a bit as we are positioned to be first out the door in the event of a conflict in the Pacific. This puts a lot of strain on Soldiers and Families once again but has led to some memorable ministry moments. Most of my time during our field exercises is spent with our Role 2 Medical assets ministering to casualties (imagine the show "MASH," but without the nice tents and soft beds). 25ID's mission is to be as light and maneuverable as possible, so we enjoy all the amenities that nature has to offer – if you know what I mean!

As for the Sutton family, we are doing well. In addition to unit ministry, I am also serving as the Senior Chaplain at Fort DeRussy Army Chapel in Waikiki. Holly is still busy being super mom/wife, though it gets harder and harder to keep up with the little ones as we get older! She is involved with the Chaplain's Wives group out here and does so much to help out with my unit. I could not do it without her. Dylan has moved to Massachusetts and is working with a Graphic Design Company there. I think he now has a new appreciation for Winter! Harper Grace will turn 9 on January 19<sup>th</sup>. She has been taking singing/piano lessons from our Music Director at the chapel. She has sung for our worship service on several occasions, and she will be baptized on her birthday. Callie Mae turned 4 in December. She is our "class clown" and keeps us all laughing. She is known as "Miss Aloha" at the chapel and has become quite fond of singing with her big sister. Harrison is 2-1/2 now. He is into absolutely EVERYTHING and has no fear of ANYTHING. We are going to have to get him into some sort of contact sport soon!

Mom and Dad have re-located to Murrell's Inlet in SC. They are actually heading our way as I write this and will spend about three weeks with us here. So happy to have them visit and the kids are beside themselves with anticipation of their arrival! They send their love to all.

We continue to thank God for your prayers and support. We wish we were able to visit and fellowship with you all, but that time will come. We have about another year and a half left in Hawaii before we see what direction God calls us in next. Wherever it is, we will grow where we're planted! Love to all, take care of one another, and may the Lord bless you with His peace and grace.

With love in Christ,

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