



## ✿ ✿ Glowing Heart in Hawaii ✿ ✿



Honolulu is a place known for its glorious sunsets, incredible beaches, and luxurious resorts. But for DBU's Glowing Heart Ministries, going to Honolulu for Spring Break did not mean a week of sunbathing and snorkeling, it meant a week of serving and singing.

Through Bible study seminars, lunchtime morning services, and community service projects, Glowing Heart encouraged and discipled the students at Hawaii Baptist Academy, a private, college preparatory, Christian school with over 1,000 students from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

"The opportunity to develop close and meaningful relationships with Hawaii Baptist Academy students really blessed my heart," explained Shannon McKinney, senior member of Glowing Heart.

Glowing Heart also formed relationships with members of Beyond Four Walls, a homeless ministry based out of Ala Moana Park in Waikiki. Spending time with devoted members of this ministry was especially meaningful to junior Glowing Heart member, Darci Simpson. "The ministry [Beyond Four Walls] helped to provide for the physical needs of a family, and as a result, I was able to see a father and mother come to know Christ," Simpson said. "It was real ministry." Glowing Heart led praise and worship for the ministry's Wednesday night service and held a lunch concert the following day while the students from Hawaii Baptist Academy joined in helping serve food.



Throughout the week, Glowing Heart used their talents and passion to worship God through both their songs and their lives. They led praise and worship at a variety of places throughout the island, including a special night service on the beach. "My most meaningful moment was spending Friday night sitting on the beach and worshipping with over fifty students from the academy," recalled Henry Loftin, director of Glowing Heart Ministries. "We worshiped, looking at God's magnificent creation as onlookers and passers-by joined in or pondered the experience they were witnessing."

DBU professor of missions, Dr. Bob Garrett, accompanied Glowing Heart on the trip. A former missionary and veteran of dozens of mission trips, Dr. Garrett's expertise has been utilized to guide various DBU mission trips, including a month-long mission trip this last summer to Swaziland, Africa.

"We really enjoyed the students and faculty at Hawaii Baptist Academy," Dr. Garrett explained. "They share DBU's commitment to provide an excellent educational experience with a vibrant hope in Christ and a deep faith in God. But, what I really liked best about the trip was getting closer to Glowing Heart. They worship more than they perform, and that is quite contagious. I was so impressed that as I got to know them personally, I discovered that each of them were more concerned with knowing Christ and serving God than you could imagine."