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Pukalani Baptist Church

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HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

Ministries **by Gloria Inciong**

In the decade after the Church 50th Anniversary, we had some additions to the Staff, Church leaders and to our ministries.

In 2009 Josh Marburger came on staff as Youth Director. In 2011 his ordination as a minister took place at Pukalani Baptist. Others who have been a part of Pukalani Baptist Church and were later ordained into the ministry include Stanley Shiroma, Rod Graybeal, Mike Ashman, Richard Brown and James Shiroma.



Ladies Seminars held each year at PBC

Shawn Racoma, Cy Fukugawa, Glenn Kamiya and Eric Abe were installed as Deacons in 2011.

After June Yamamoto retired in 2016, Niki Gibo became the Church Secretary.

The Awana Club Program began in 2012 and not only our own church children but those from other churches and those not attending any church came on Wednesday nights. The children memorize scriptures, have devotions, play games and have fellowship with other children.

There also is Youth Night for those in 6th grade and above on Friday nights.



Vacation Bible School has always been a very important ministry in the church ever since the church was organized first as a mission then as a Church. It takes lots of workers each year to enable the Church to offer this event each summer.



Women and Men's Ministries



In 2018, our women brought their sewing machines and their abilities to Fellowship Hall to make cloth gift bags for the Mission Team to take and give when in Zambia. The bags were filled with small gifts for those that the team ministered to in Zambia.



Making gift bags for Zambia Mission Trip



Each year since 2010, our Church has generously donated toys, school supplies, clothing, hygiene items and packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child each November.



This year is the 60th Anniversary for Pukalani Baptist Church. Through the years, it has had many happy times and has had some difficult times. When the mission and then the Church was first organized, most of the congregation were young people who were new Christians, not having that much experience in leadership in a Christian Church. How well they did. Later when the Church was without Pastors for different extended time periods, members had to step up and fill in where they could. When the Preschool closed in 2010, that was a difficult and sad time also. And right now, when we all can't be together to worship on Sundays, this is another challenging time. With the

congregation praying and trusting God, we will manage and get through this also. From the history of this Church, I believe this is what members through the years have done to enable Pukalani Baptist Church to provide a place where persons can come and hear the Good News of Jesus and where the “welcome mat” is always out for new and old friends to worship together.

Thank you to those who have taken pictures, made albums, wrote Church business meeting minutes, kept of notes and programs and published the Church newsletter “The Proclaimer” for many years to enable us to be able to learn the history of the Church.

JOHN 12:32

AND I, WHEN I AM LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL PEOPLE
TO MYSELF.”

Dragon Tales: “Counted Worthy to Suffer” – Part 2

By Laura Newell

Two days and nights had been spent sharing God’s love in a remote village in Northern China and both Chen Li and Guo Xiaoping were feeling discouraged.

People came and went and many of them stopped to chat with these two strangers, but most left shaking their heads in disbelief. In spite of temperatures that dropped twenty degrees and a moderate snow that fell, the girls continued to preach throughout the third and fourth days.

Xiaoping’s teeth chattered uncontrollably as they lay down that night. Her right leg felt really numb, even when she rubbed it gently. Li suggested they sing songs to warm them and so they did. Both girls rested fitfully as the night dragged on, and they awakened before dawn, but stayed huddled under their quilts.

“Get up and come home with me,” barked an old woman standing over them. *“I must have dozed back to sleep,”* thought Li, recognizing the wrinkled face above her. She had spoken with her two days ago, but seemed to have very little interest in anything spiritual. In fact, all she’d done was complain that her husband spent too much of their hard-earned money gambling with his friends.

As they struggled to their feet, stiff and frozen, Xiaoping realized she couldn't stand. Li and the old woman helped her to get up, but still she was unable to walk. As her friend began to rub down her bad leg and the woman went for help, Xiaoping tried hopping on her good leg. Pain shot through her like a lightning bolt and she fell into a heap on top of her quilt.

The old woman returned with a bicycle and they managed to get Xiaoping on the metal strip behind the seat.

"My cousin's wife is a doctor and we can go see her." As they walked the old woman asked questions about the girls' faith wondering why they would come so far to tell strangers about a God no one could see.

"I was coming to tell you to sleep at my house," the old woman said sheepishly. *"I feel so bad seeing you sleep outdoors in the cold. Well, you can stay with me tonight."*

Dr. Wang was gentle as she cut open Xiaoping's trouser leg. Unable to pull her long underwear up above the patient's knee, she then also cut through two layers of woolen long underwear.

"You have deep frostbite. Your skin is blue and the tissue underneath is hard and very cold. Let's use warm water to try raising your body temperature. If that does not work you will lose your leg, I'm afraid."

Li looked at her friend as the doctor asked why they had been outdoors for four days in below zero weather, and she prayed while her friend began to speak of her faith.

The following day Dr. Wang noticed signs of infections as Xiaoping's leg swelled and red streaks extended across her leg. Her fever rose above 100 degrees as Li looked on, wondering what would become of her friend. The final diagnosis wasn't comforting: the leg must be amputated before the infection spread and threatened her life. Both girls prayed throughout the night, asking God to miraculously intervene and use the situation for His glory.

Dr. Wang checked in early the next morning and confirmed her previous diagnosis. Surgery was scheduled for 11:00 that morning at the clinic.

During the night dozens of families had heard about the girls who came from the city to tell them of God's love for sinful men and women and they were full of questions. Li agreed to talk with them after her friend's surgery and she did, repeating the old, old story of Jesus and His love. She was surprised to see how many of them had long faces yet were eager for news about Xiaoping.

Two weeks later the girls prepared to leave for home, one on crutches, one on her own two feet. Xiaoping's eyes watered as she whispered to her friend, *"God's Spirit has brought most of the village to repentance and faith in our Father. What a privilege it is for me to be counted worthy to suffer for Christ's sake."*