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Pukalani Baptist Church

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HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

The Mission Is Blessed With a Permanent Place to Meet and Its First Pastor

By Gloria Inciong

In the 1950's there was much to be grateful for with the purchase of land for a future building, and the first pastor of the mission arrives. High school girls (below) attended the mission and some who became Christians help teach Sunday School and help other mission activities.



Some of the young ladies who attended Pukalani Baptist Mission in the 1950's.

Back row left to right: Charlotte Shoda, Cynthia Takamura, Janet Kobayashi, Phyllis Higuchi
Jean Yamaguchi, Nora Yamamoto, Doris Takemoto, Carol Kobayashi
Front: Karen Higuchi, Faith Ogasawara, Lorraine Takemoto, Eileen Oshiro, Janet Matsueda

SBC 1955 annual reports that **“Missionary Alda Grayson divides her time between the church (Kahului Baptist) and its mission church on the slopes of Haleakala. A canopy truck, gift of the W.M.U. of North Carolina, is used by the mission congregation.”**

With gifts given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Hawaiian Baptist Mission (now known as Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention) purchased the lot (.9635 acres) we are on today. It was purchased from the Estate of Masaji Ishiki on February 18, 1955. Mr. Ishiki had acquired title in 1953.

Sue Saito Nishikawa stated in the 1960 Baptist Messenger **“Every piece of precious land we own in Hawaii has been purchased with the help of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering....Kaunakakai Church on Molokai started a Sunday School in a deserted Buddhist temple and Kahului met in a Buddhist social hall. Several churches bought army huts and renovated them for their use. These churches have attractive buildings today because of your generous missionary gifts.”**

Two houses from Airport Village were moved onto the property where the parking lot is now. The two houses were joined to be used for classes and services for the church. (left picture) Later the house on the right from Libby Pineapple Camp in Haiku was also moved there.



In July 1956 Rev. Charles Mullins, pastor of Kahului Baptist Church wrote **“There are eighty-five enrolled in Sunday school at Pukalani. Missionary Alda Grayson, who is in charge of the mission, now has an active program of missionary organizations and an annual Vacation Bible School in this Japanese community where there is no other Christian church.”**

In 1950, James Sanbei from Wahiawa on Oahu and wife Katherine both graduated from Hardin-Simmons University, Baptist school in Abilene Texas. After graduating, James attended and graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas. He is called to pastor the Kaunakakai Baptist Church on Molokai and serves there for two years until he accepts the pastorate at Pukalani Baptist Mission in 1956.



Rev. James Sanbei with wife Katherine, daughter Marilyn, son Arthur

In an article written by Rev. Mullins in 1957 regarding Rev. Sanbei coming to Pukalani, he wrote **“Prior to his coming the mission had only Sunday School, Women's Missionary Union auxiliaries and a week-night Bible class. But now it has a well-rounded, full-time program. On the first Sunday that a morning worship service was held, practically all of the sixty-one present for Sunday school remained to worship.”**

In November 1956 the mission holds its first business meeting at Rev. Sanbei's home. There were 11 present, with Carol Kobayashi serving as clerk and Nancy Kiyabu as Treasurer. In 1957 minutes it was reported that the congregation is giving to mission offerings-Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Territorial (Hawaii) mission funds in addition to Temperance League.

The next phase that the mission will be entering into will be preparing for a new building on the property and organizing into a church.

JOHN 12:32

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

Dragon Tales #2 “The Confession”
Laura’s Chinese Adventures
By Laura Newell

It was the fall of 1986, my first year of teaching English to engineering majors in Inner Mongolia. About 8:30 one morning, right in the midst of making last minute revisions in a lesson to be taught at 10:00, a student telephoned, asking to come over. I tried to put her off until afternoon so I could finish my work, but she was insistent about coming NOW. Reluctantly, I agreed, knowing it would be a short visit.

I attempted to connect her name and face but failed to do so. “*Yang Na, Yang Na, Yang Na...*” I didn’t even recall having a student by that name, but some classes were large, I told myself. When Yang Na arrived I quickly gave her the once over but still couldn’t place her.

“*Teacher, I need help,*” she started. I nodded encouragement, mildly surprised that she didn’t begin with the usual small talk, working up to her reason for coming.

“*How can I help?*” I asked.

“*I’m afraid,*” Yang Na admitted slowly. “*My professor caught me...*,” she hesitated and lowered her head.

I leaned forward and repeated, “*He caught you?*”

“*Cheating, yes.*”

“*Oh. And you’re afraid?*”

“*My family will lose face if he posts my name with other students guilty of cheating or stealing. I don’t want to hurt them,*” she whispered, tears glistening on her lower eye lashes. “*What should I do?*”

Her question took me off guard. “*I don’t know what you should do,*” I stammered. Then slowly my mind filled with clear, uninterrupted thoughts. It was as though someone had erased a dirty chalkboard in my mind, then outlined the answer point by point.

“*I’m not sure what you should do,*” I began, “*but if I were you I would be honest with my professor. It’s because I’m a follower of Jesus Christ and He wants me to tell the truth, even when I do wrong.*”

Yang Na appeared interested so I continued. “*If I were in your shoes I would go talk with the teacher and admit to cheating. Then I’d ask him to forgive me and I’d promise never to cheat again in his class...*”

My student slowly began to nod. “*But what if he refuses? Chinese don’t do things this way... I don’t know if it will work.*”

"I don't either," I admitted, *"but I will ask God to give you favor with your instructor so he will forgive you."* I pulled my Bible off a nearby book shelf and read 1 John 1:9.

"OK, I'll try," she responded, *"but don't forget to pray for me, will you?"*

I agreed, this time with no reluctance and Yang Na headed out the door. During my 10-12 o'clock class I intermittently directed the same request to my Father, asking for His mercy upon Yang Na.

At about 1:30 she returned to my apartment with a look of triumph and began to relate her experience. She told how she had gone to the college entrance and waited outside the gate in hopes of spotting her teacher enroute to lunch. Upon recognizing the man she hurried after him on foot, calling him by name. His response was positive and her relief was genuine.

Yang Na was amazed that this normally gruff man freely forgave her and she gladly endured his lecture about never cheating again. Now she was ready to hear about a Father who would gladly forgive her past, present and future trespasses.

In the spring of 1987 Yang Na received Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord, confessing her ultimate sin of rebellion against the One who created and loved her. Today she continues to grow in grace and has had the supreme pleasure of watching her mother, aged grandmother, her aunt and uncle and finally her husband receive Him who came to set captives free.

[Note: This is a series of true stories of God at work in China. The dragon is a symbol of that country, thus, our series' title, *"Dragon Tales."* Taken from Pukalani Baptist Church's Proclaimer, Nov. 11, 1995 issue, Vol. 12, No. 8.]