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Pukalani Baptist Church

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HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

The Mission Organizes as Pukalani Baptist Church

By Gloria Inciong



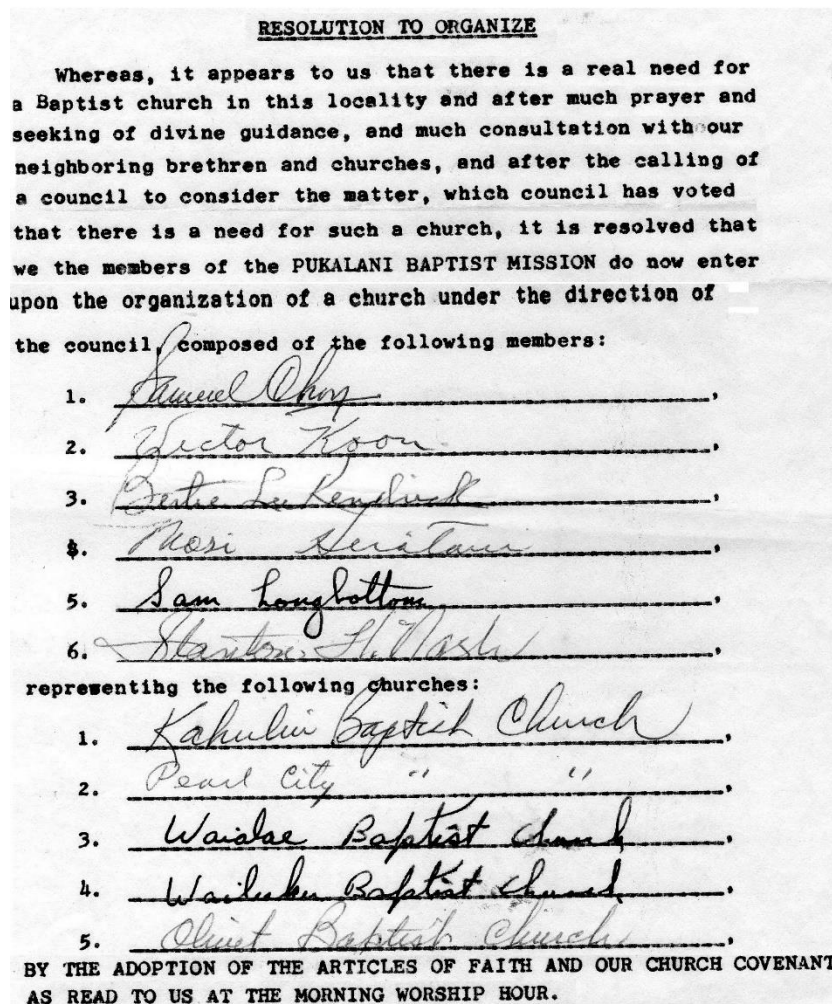
In January 1957 there were 15 residents members and 2 non-resident members. On May 4, 1958 there were 9 people baptized. With the mission growing in attendance, there came a time when the mission felt the time was right to organize into a church. At the April 19, 1958 business meeting, a motion was made by Katherine Sanbei and seconded that **"we submit to Kahului (Kahului Baptist-sponsoring church) a resolution stating our fitness and readiness to organize into a church"**. A motion was made by Frank Shimabukuro that a resolution be prepared and Miss Grayson be chairman of the committee. Approved.

At the August 1958 business meeting, a letter was read from the Hawaiian Baptist Mission stating that **"the mission should make a request money for a new building"**. A motion was made and approved that the mission make a request of a grant of \$30,000 to the Hawaiian Baptist Mission. The funds would be coming from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of the Foreign Mission Board.

As Hawaii becomes a state in 1959, changes come for Hawaii Baptist churches as the Foreign Mission Board agrees to phase out the work of the missionaries. The Home Mission Board becomes the national entity to which the Hawaii Baptist Convention will work as cooperative agreements along with the Southern Baptist Convention. By the end of 1960 some missionaries will remain in Hawaii on loan, others reappointed and some retiring.

"January twenty-fourth, 1960, the Pukalani Baptist Mission became Pukalani Baptist church. Greetings were brought by Mori Hiratani, Pastor and President of the Hawaii Baptist Convention and Dr. Victor Koon, Field Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

The organizational message was given by Mr. Stanton Nash, Executive Secretary of the Hawaii Baptist Convention. It was like parent and child before then, but after a long and hard mission, we have come to the terse of INDEPENDENCE and DEMOCRACY. Indeed, we are happy to see the progress that YOU have so faithfully put into our hands. Many important steps were taken during the service in order that we become a church. The recommendation for organization, reading of the resolution for organizing and the election of Pastor (Rev. James Sanbei) and Church Clerk (Clarence Namaye). Indeed, we are happy to have the same staff members who are faithfully serving YOU in trying to make this community a better place for religious education and worship." Writer unknown, possibly Alda Grayson.



At the first business meeting of the newly organized church on January 31, 1960 the agenda included naming the church and approving co-operating and request to affiliate with Hawaii Baptist Convention. Also a motion was made, seconded and approved that "all members

enrolled in Pukalani Baptist Mission on the day of organization and Brian Nitta who is waiting baptism, will be considered charter members of Pukalani Baptist Church". There were 28 members on January 24, 1960. The first person listed on our church membership roll is Mrs. Lloyd W. (Ruby) Crowell of Pukalani who was part of the mission since May 12, 1946. Pauline Shiroma says that Mrs. Crowell was well known for her good Bible stories using flannelgraph to illustrate. She was well loved by the children.

JOHN 12:32

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

Dragon Tales #3: "Granny"

By Laura Newell

It's about 12' x 18', all told. Her house, I mean. And as you walk in you immediately catch sight of the huge k'ang dominating the north wall. At age 76 and after months of debilitating sickness, a fetal position is most comfortable. So she rests on the k'ang, thin legs curled round about her, dark eyes half open. Four tubes connect a glucose bag taped to the wall, having been momentarily removed by her youngest daughter, a nurse. Her eyes flicker shut for a time, but at the sound of knocking the old woman seems more alert.

A pair of elderly grannies shuffle in, the oldest limping on tiny feet once bound. Several hours later these two emerge into the outside cold with eyes bright and smiles shared: mission accomplished. "God has looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the Lord behold the earth; to hear the groaning of the prisoner to loose those that are appointed to death..." (Psalm 102:12, 20)

You may remember my former student, Yang Na. Her grandmother became seriously ill in 1991 shortly after her husband died. Yang Na had repeatedly requested prayer for this woman who raised her during the Cultural Revolution, a time when Chinese families were ripped apart. She remembers growing up with her maternal grandparents, not knowing why she couldn't live with her own parents, remembers hearing beautiful music over the mud wall in the backyard,

remembers climbing over to investigate, remembers seeing someone dipping another into water. Confusing memories ...until she became a Christian and realized that was a baptismal service she'd stumbled upon.

Yang Na suspected her grandma would die that winter, yet she longed for her to have peace with God before leaving this world. So on we prayed while Lao Lao slowly worsened. After praying one afternoon we agreed that I would go visit with the purpose of discussing God as Lawmaker and man as lawbreaker.

I dutifully went and she dutifully listened with little apparent interest. All she seemed to recognize was her youngest daughter's selfishness; she knew that was sinful. So I finally left, knowing I had accomplished nothing. A thought came to me as I pedalled home on my rickety black bicycle: Granny Yu, my old friend from church, could relate to Yang Na's grandmother. Her testimony would have more meaning and reliability than a foreigner's... Yes, we'd try again but with a slightly different strategy. God would have to keep her alive until Granny could visit. He did and she responded and we rejoiced. "Great is Thy faithfulness, O God our Father..."

[Taken from Pukalani Baptist Church's Proclaimer, December 1995-January 1996 issue, Volume 12, Number 9.]