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Pukalani Baptist Church

Pastor Paul Kaneshiro

P. O. Box 880033, Pukalani, Hawaii 96788

(808) 572-7968 * pbcmaui@hawaii.rr.com * www.pukalanibaptist.com

HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

Deacons Ordained, Pastor Shiroma moves to Oahu by Gloria Inciong

In the 1970s with Pastor Stanley Shiroma leading, families became involved in the church activities and outreach. There was a two day church retreat at Camp Maluhia. Japanese Language Revival was held with Dr. Curtis Askew as speaker. Dr. Askew was the first American missionary to Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped there. He also pastored churches on Oahu. Report of the revival was "many attending." PBC youth participated in the Youth Crusade in 1977. PBC began having Bible studies in Kula homes and Haiku ministry. Congregation picked up students from Maunaolu College to attend church until the college merged and eventually closed.

Rod Graybeal was ordained to the ministry in 1978. His sister, Vicky, became "the first summer missionary in Church's history to be sent out from Pukalani Baptist. She was appointed by Home Mission Board and served in Oregon."

The Long Range Committee of the church proposed looking into an educational building, having a senior citizens daycare and buying/building a parsonage.

After Miss Kendrick left, in 1975 Louise Tomita became Nursery School Director and served until 1976. The Nursery School and Sunday School children combined for the Christmas programs. Mrs. Nakashima of Pukalani Superette continued for many years to provide fruits and goodies for the Nursery School Christmas packages.



After Miss Tomita resigns, Peggy Kuia became Director until September 1978 when Mrs. Carole Jett took the position. In January 1979 Rodney Graybeal becomes the Nursery Director and Associate Pastor of the Church. He resigns in July 1979 to attend seminary. Carol Sakai is called to become the new Nursery School Director and serves in that capacity until 1985.

Church Briefs

Deacons to be ordained at Pukalani

Seven members of the Pukalani Baptist Church will be ordained into the Deacon Ministry Sunday at 10:15 a.m. They are Dennis Shiroma, a Kula Elementary School teacher; David Murray, retired state Department of Corrections employee; Jake Graybeal, retired aerospace industry executive; Gordon Kuia of the state Department of Transportation; Priscilla Sanders, Kamaaina Rent-A-Car employee; Guy Munsell, FAA electronics technician; and Daniel Tomita, clerk-typist with the Maui County Council.

The public is invited to share in the event, according to the Rev. Rodney Graybeal, associate pastor. A potluck luncheon and reception for the new deacons will follow the service.

1979 PBC Deacon Ordination: Front row: Rev. Shiroma, Dan Tomita, Priscilla Sanders, Dennis Shiroma, Dave Murray; Back row: Dr Edmond Walker, HBC; Jake Graybeal, Guy Munsell, Gordon Kuia, Ray Savage-HBC



June 10, 1979 Ordination for Deacons Dennis Shiroma, Jake Graybeal, Dan Tomita, David Murray, Gordon Kuia, Guy Munsell and Priscilla Sanders. Dr. Edmond Walker, Executive Director of Hawaii Baptist Convention was the speaker and Ray Savage, Catalytic Missionary, gave the charge to the Deacons. Later Guy Munsell and Jake Graybeal moved away. Dan Tomita left for Southwestern Seminary in 1980.

Beginning in the 1970s, the church was active with the Maui County Baptist Association sports including bowling, basketball, volleyball and softball. When Dan Tomita, brother of Louise, returned back to Maui in 1977 he helped organize MCBA Basketball League that included women and girls, youth, and men and involved not only Baptist churches but some Evangelical churches also. The League provided a tool for those who might never go to church to hear the Good News. As Dan put it **“We incorporated several safeguards to prevent competition from getting out-of-hand. We used the halftime period to cool off by singing Christian choruses, hearing personal testimonies, devotional lessons & prayer.** The PBC Women won the Womens 1978 3 on 3 basketball championship with a record of 5 wins, 1 loss. If I remember correctly, Alice Kamiya (Monoogan) played then. Her brother Glenn was involved with the sports too.

In February 1980 Pastor Shiroma resigns as he “accepts God’s call to be Pastor of Waianae Baptist Church on Oahu”. He served there for 22 years before retiring.

The church begins the process of calling another Pastor. Also planning begins for the 20th Anniversary.

May 24th 1980 the church celebrates the 20th anniversary of the church with a luau.



The following was written in the anniversary booklet. "We are currently without a Pastor. The Deacons (8) are assuming pastoral duties until a new Pastor is called. Chairman of the Deacons, Dennis Shiroma, is the nominal church leader. We had to discontinue some home Bible studies but most functions continue unimpaired. The Nursery School, directed by Carol Sakai, is operating at full capacity which is 60 children." Sam Choy of Hawaii Baptist Convention was guest speaker at the luau.

In September 1980 Robert Nagamine comes as Interim Pastor and serves until October 1981 when Robert Orr (Mary Ann) is called as Pastor.



Rev. Robert Nagamine



Rev. Robert and MaryAnn Orr

In 1982 Dr. Edmond Walker informs Pastor Orr that the title of the church property is under Hawaii Baptist Convention's name. If the church incorporates, the title will be put in Pukalani Baptist Church name. In October 1983 the church constitution is approved by the members.

In April 1985 the title for the property is put in Pukalani's name.

JOHN 12:32

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

DRAGON TALES: “To Forgiveness or Not to Forgive?”

By Laura Newell

Shu Gong paced back and forth in my small apartment, reminding me more of a caged tiger than a colleague at the university. And each time the conversation gradually shifted to life itself, our experiences and hopes for the future.

“You’re making me dizzy! C’mon, sit down and quit your pacing, Mr. Shu,” I’d beg.

*“But you don’t understand. Under no circumstances will I forgive my father. I **hate** him! You have no idea how he’s hurt my mother. And he hurt me, too. Can you imagine growing up not even knowing my own father? That may be common in your country, but it’s disgraceful in mine.”*

His voice rose: *“My father left my hometown two months after I was born. He headed for Peking to join the People’s Liberation Army. He met some woman there and **he married her!** My poor mother didn’t even know. She was left to care for me in the dead of winter. How he shamed us! My mother’s parents had to come and bring food so we wouldn’t starve to death. How humiliated my mother was! She didn’t even have enough milk to feed me...”*

“He really hurt you, didn’t he?” I watched as tears welled up in Gong’s eyes. Embarrassed, he wiped them with the back of his hand. *“You can never forgive him because you don’t have it in you,”* I continued.

He nodded. *“The only way is to receive God’s forgiveness. You have offended Him deeply; you’ve broken His laws and you need to be forgiven – just like your father. But if you don’t receive God’s forgiveness, you cannot pass it on to your dad. How can you give him something you don’t have?”*

We’d discussed this before at length and Gong always seemed both repelled by the thought of his own sin and yet attracted to the hope of forgiveness. He stood up and started pacing again, faster this time. He abruptly stopped right in front of my chair. Lowering his voice considerably he spoke in a hoarse whisper. *“My father was put into prison in Peking. Do you know what he was arrested for?”* he asked. *“He was charged with committing adultery! In fact, he spent quite some time there in prison, but he didn’t return to us when he was released. He went back to his new wife. The fool never even asked my mother for a divorce...”*

Gong sprawled in the chair across from me, apparently exhausted from the pain of this new revelation. *“You know, for several years I taught at the Number Three Middle School outside the city.”* I nodded, remembering this from a previous conversation. *“I thought if I could just get a job teaching at a decent college, I’d be happy. But I am not. Then I decided I needed a good woman. I fought with my mother and step-father to marry Zhou Li; I just knew she’d make me happy...We’ve been quarreling again. Later I thought, ‘if I can just have a little son, I’ll be satisfied.’ He smiled at me. ‘Now I’ve got everything I once wished for, but I’m not happy.’”*

*“The book of John says that God has revealed his Son so that our joy might be **full**. Did you know that God wants to fill you with real joy? But until you have a relationship with God yourself, you cannot enjoy his gifts. Think about it: If I telephone my brother about loaning me some money, do you think he’ll agree to it?”*

He slowly nodded. *“If he has the money, I suppose so.”*

“You’re right. It wouldn’t be a problem for him. But what if you called my brother and asked to borrow a sum of money, what would he say?”

The pacing began again. *“Well, Laura, your brother doesn’t know me. We’ve never met. He’d think I am a lunatic for asking him for money – or a beggar.”*

"If you go to God and ask him for joy, he must respond the same way because you don't have any relationship with him. But once you have allowed him to remove your sins and received the gift of his Son, then you enter into an eternal relationship with the God who created you. And you can ask him whatever you need and his promise is that it will be gladly supplied."

"Right now you have no forgiveness in your heart for your father, right? But if you receive God's forgiveness, then He will enable you to pass it on. You'll be able to forgive him..."

"Yes, but his crime is much greater than mine! I have never betrayed anyone the way my father has done! He..."

"But, Gong, God says that the man who breaks only one of His laws is just as guilty as one who breaks them all! Hey, look at my window." We both stared at the only window in my living room, directly above the radiator. "If your father throws a huge rock through my window, it will break, right? Let's say you toss a tiny pebble through it. It's still broken, isn't it? It's no different with God's law. Both you and your dad have broken it and you're no better than he is just because you think your offense is minor and his is major."

He pushed himself farther back in the chair, thinking about his offenses. *"Well, it's getting late. I'd better go home. My wife will think I've abandoned her."*

As my friend rose to leave I had to smile, knowing he'd be back soon to discuss the weighty words and ways of God. As I bid him *"good-night,"* he hung his head and muttered, *"I don't want to hate my own father..."*

