

June 10, 2020

Pukalani Baptist Church

Pastor Paul Kaneshiro

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HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

25th Anniversary, New building, Paul Kaneshiro is New Pastor

by Gloria Inciong

On May 4, 1985 the church celebrates its 25th Anniversary. Dan Kong, Executive Secretary of Hawaii Baptist Convention was the speaker.



Helen Fukugawa and Amy Murray at reception table for 25th Anniversary

In 1985 the church adopts a building expansion program. In the 25th Anniversary Booklet, it is written “***We feel that the most significant step that we have recently taken in faith is a building expansion program. While we have not yet outgrown our present facilities, we are in that marginal area where our opportunity to serve God in this area can be stimulated by providing more adequate facilities.***”

Robert Orr resigns as Pastor in July 1985. Rev. Charles McClain, with wife Bea, comes to Pukalani as the Interim Pastor in November 1985. He previously served as Interim Pastor for Oahu Churches. Pastor McClain leaves in February 1986.

After Carol Sakai leaves in 1985 as Director of Preschool, Edith Saito, a North American Mission Board Mission Service Corp Volunteer for a one year assignment, becomes the Director of the preschool and serving as Church Secretary. Debbie Gonsalves is Acting Director until June 1986 when Martha Selzer becomes the Preschool Director. She serves for one year. Lisa Ward serves as the Director until 1991.

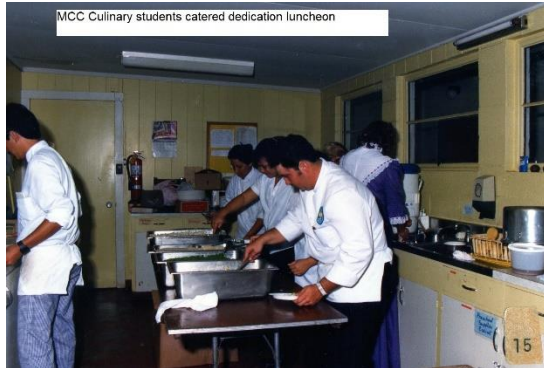
On February 23, 1986 three men were ordained as Deacons: Michael Ashman, Ken Ward, and Martin Jones. Kats Taura of Oahu gave the Charge to the Deacons and Steve Kaneshiro gave the Charge to the Church. Dan Kong delivered the message. Soon after this, Interim Pastor Charles and Bea McClain leave. Interim Pastor H.O. Black arrives soon after.





May 4, 1986 Groundbreaking for Education Bldg.-Interim Pastor H.O.Black, Dennis Shiroma, Jim Scarborough, Peggy Tatum, Debbie Gonsalves, Gordon Kuia

Work begins on the new educational building in July 1986. Many people volunteered their time, talents and services to see this completed. Hubert and Peggy Tatum were appointed as missionaries to Hawaii by the Foreign Mission Board in 1949 and they served at many churches in Hawaii. Peggy put her talents and energies into seeing the new building for the church become a reality, coordinating with contractors, county and state officials, service providers, donors and whatever else was needed to see it become the building we have today. On January 6, 1987, Peggy wrote a note to Dennis Shiroma which read ***“You will rejoice to know that we are now trusting for the final goal of \$10,000 for the building. It seems as impossible as the total did a year ago. How great is His Faithfulness and I rejoice that He is able and that His Promises are true.”***



Dedication for the Hubert and Peggy Tatum Education Building: ***“This building is dedicated to the living faith exemplified in the lives of Hubert and Peggy Tatum. Hubert was a builder of churches. Peggy was the prayer warrior. Together, God used them to build the Kaumana Drive Baptist Church, Kailua Baptist Church and the Central Baptist Church. God gifted Pukalani with Peggy after Hubert went home to be with our Lord. She has been used mightily of God to build the education building that we are dedicating today. We are truly thankful unto our Lord for the faith of Peggy Tatum.”***

At the same time that the Church is celebrating and dedicating a new Education Building, the Church is welcoming a new Pastor, Paul Kaneshiro, from Oahu and his wife June and children John, Andrew, Joanna, Susanna, and Naomi.

Local Church Briefs

New Pukalani pastor

PUKALANI — The Pukalani Baptist Church has had a new pastor since Feb. 1, Paul K. Kaneshiro. His brother, Stephen, is pastor of Kahului Baptist Church.

This is Kaneshiro's fourth church. He has also been pastor of Faith Baptist Church in San Jose, Calif., International Baptist Church in Cupertino, Calif., and Waiālae Baptist Church in Honolulu.

Kaneshiro earned his master of divinity degree in 1976 at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of Hawaii Baptist Academy in Honolulu and Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas.

He and his wife, June, have five children. Kaneshiro's family is scheduled to arrive Feb. 27.

"I have never had such a warm welcome by any other church or community as I have had here," Kaneshiro said. The family is looking forward to sharing "Jesus Christ in as loving a manner as possible. The people there at Pukalani Baptist Church are a loving family. We are certain that God has brought us here."

New Pukalani building

PUKALANI — A new educational building will be dedicated by the Pukalani Baptist Church Sunday.

The dedication will part of a three-part program that day.

It begins with the 10:15 a.m. worship service, with a sermon of dedication by Dr. W.C. Garland. Garland is director of evangelism of the Hawaii Baptist Convention.

A meal will be served at noon, for which reservations are requested. Phone 575-2120.

The dedication service at 1 p.m. will conclude the program. The address will be given by Pastor Paul



PAUL KANESHIRO
New Pukalani pastor

Kaneshiro. The individuals and businesses who helped the church complete the building will be recognized.

Also participating will be Dr. William Kepler and Elin Melrose, who will sing a duet; Betty Jean Chatham, a concert pianist from Kentucky; and Joe Coleman, a Tulsa, Okla., architect who donated the plans for the building.

The building was constructed to accommodate the handicapped. It has special restroom facilities.

Each preschool classroom has its own restroom and kitchen, and the nursery area has a kitchenette and restroom.

The public is invited to the program.



The Installation Service for Pastor Paul is on March 8, 1987. Michael Ashman leads the pledges of the Congregation and the Pastor. In July 1988 Betty Millard, Mission Service Corps volunteer is assigned to Pukalani for a two year assignment and she serves as Church Secretary and Youth Director.



The house next door is purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Bob Johnson in May 1988 and will be used as the parsonage, place for guests of the church, and much needed parking. In 1988 Challenge to Build campaign begins with emphasis to pay off the parsonage Loan and to expand and renovate the Worship Center.

JOHN 12:32

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

DRAGON TALES: “*God is Still on the Throne*”
By Laura Newell

I recall exactly where I was that Sunday morning when we received the news that the People’s Liberation Army had opened fire on its own unarmed people in the midst of a peaceful demonstration. Thousands upon thousands of Chinese students, workers and sympathizers had converged upon the heart of Beijing to express their desire for more freedom in the land. It had all started that spring of 1989 when a handful of college students began planning and staging small demonstrations. Word spread quickly about what was taking place in the capital city of the Middle Kingdom, and young people rode trains from far and wide to be part of the movement which was calling for leaders to practice what they preached. Youth were tired of the hypocrisy of their elders.

For weeks the atmosphere in our city was one of exuberance while students marched with teachers through streets. Banners were held high as marchers plowed through the crowds of curious onlookers, and common people opened their doors and their hearts, sharing food, water and advice. Classes were canceled and many of my students either took to the streets or rode the train to Beijing to be part of modern history. Hopes ran high.

The sounds of demonstrators penetrated my apartment walls at night. Crashing bottles mingled with chants and cheers, and cries for change rang through the night air. Hope was palpable as dreams for a future generation pulsated in the hearts of young and old.

June 4 dawned upon columns of tanks moving quickly to Ti’anamen and within hours thousands of youth were dead or wounded. Some spoke in hushed whispers that the old guard had massacred its own children while others claimed that demonstrators were guilty of treason...Silence descended upon the cities and campuses of China. Parents too fearful to identify the dead bodies of their children grieved in secret. No more songs. No laughter. Just fear.

Our classes at the university were canceled that spring and after the Ti’anamen massacre Chinese officials in the city scrambled to get us out of the country, unsure of what the future held. We left not knowing if we would be allowed to return to teach that fall. But God was still on the throne.

By the end of August we had come back to our adopted country and fall classes were beginning. Extra political studies were scheduled for the students, who were informed that they were responsible for the upheaval in the capital, guilty of betraying their own country. The semester dragged on into winter. Snow fell and silence continued in the hearts of the young. Near the end of December we were informed that we would be expected to attend a New Year’s party for the faculty and staff of the university. A dinner party was planned and my colleague, David and I, arranged our schedules to be in attendance.

We arrived a little early in the dimly lit Lab Building and sat down to talk story with colleagues and associates. I felt anxious when Professor Zhen sat next to me because between his broken English and my broken Chinese I wondered if we would be able to communicate. But we managed to do just that and before long the room was crowded with partyers and the aroma of hot pot warmed the cold air. The meal was most enjoyable and so was the circle of people at our table.

For special occasions Chinese traditionally offer toasts during the course of a dinner party and tonight was no exception. The sharp, acrid smell of bjiu punctuated each round of dishes brought to our table. Professor Zhen leaned slightly towards me and asked, *“What about your co-worker, is he also a Christian?”*

I nodded and said, “Yes.”

With that the professor stood up and began to speak in Chinese. People listened intently because not only was he a professor but he was also a vice-president of the university. He explained that in order to honor these two foreign guests he wanted to offer the gift of a song which he had learned as a boy in a Christian mission school in Tianjin.

His voice was melodious and strong and the words rang out in perfect English:

*“God is still on the throne,
and He will remember His own.
Though the trials may press us
and burdens distress us,
He never will leave us alone.
God is still on the throne,
and He will remember His own;
His promise is true; He’ll not forget you,
For God is still on the throne!”*

Tears welled up in my eyes. God’s Spirit spoke to me through the words of this old British hymn. Despite any leader or circumstance, any tragedy or happenstance God is still on His throne. My heart filled with gratitude that God had chosen to speak His truth in love through this man. So, let us remind one another often that regardless of our own situation God is still on the throne.