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Pukalani Baptist Church

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## HISTORICAL NEWSLETTER

### **Building Renovations, New Preschool Director and Music/Youth Director by Gloria Inciong**

When it came a time that the Church needed to expand in order to make better use of the facilities, people had different ideas of how the buildings could best be put to use, thus what the plans to renovate and enlarge would be. Also there was budgeting for the cost involved which might limit doing everything that some hope could be done. It was very interesting reading minutes of the meetings to see how each person expressed what they thought the church needed. All this planning required cooperation among the church congregation and Praise God people worked together not only with physical labor and their time but also by giving so the Education Building was built debt free, and in 1990 the loan for the purchase of the house and lot next door was paid off.



In the **Challenge to Build** booklet, Pastor Paul said **“God has blessed us with a tremendous location in the middle of Upcountry Maui to fulfill His Task of reaching and ministering to the people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The only reason that we need to upgrade and expand our facilities and property is to more effectively accomplish this Task that Jesus has given to us.”**

Plans were made first for the renovations to the Worship Center. The pulpit area would be reversed to where it is today. When it was ready for the renovations, beginning in 1989, a ceiling was added to the Fellowship Hall. Then the stairs and balcony and two closets were built and then offices/classrooms were built above the Hall. For renovations to begin, the pulpit area was moved to where the front entrance on Loha Street was. Later that end of the building was boarded up for construction as you can see in the picture on next page.



Teenagers & parents about 1965. This is how the pulpit area looked back to back with Fellowship Hall pre 1989.



Baptismal Sunday Sept 1987 before pulpit reversed for renovations. Some changes since 1960s.



VBS flag bearers entering from Loha entrance before pulpit reversal.



Renovations Start

Plans for a 25 foot extension of the building toward Loha Street were sent to the County for approval in 1991 and the church had a Groundbreaking Ceremony and at the same time, a farewell luncheon for Peggy Tatum who was leaving for Tennessee soon after. The Extension

Project Coordinator was Gordon Kuia. Lots of long hours and lots of physical labor went into the construction and on February 11, 1996 there was a dedication for the extension.



Pastor Paul preaching on boarded up side of Church for Extension construction on Loha side of Church. Kahului Baptist Church was used temporarily for baptisms.



After pulpit reversed and upstairs renovations complete



Also a retaining wall was been built on the Haleakala Hwy side of the church and in the back around the playground area. Some called the wall "Great Wall of Pukalani". A fence was also added. There was also work done on the playground.

The Hubert R. Tatum Media Center Library was opened and dedicated. Many from the congregation and friends donated books, tapes, records. Although most of the tapes and other media is gone, there are books from the original library left. We still have the plaque for the library and also the two wooden card catalogue files, one now used in Awana room and the smaller one in the office/copy room.

In 1991 Dale Clancy is called as Music and Youth Director and installed February 24, 1991. He organized the drama and puppet ministry, children's choir, adult Choir and many youth activities. His wife, Vera, served in different areas of the church. After Ken and Lisa Ward moved in 1991, among those serving as Interim Preschool Directors were Lana Smith and

Naomi Ashman until Debbie Gonsalves, Teacher since 1979, becomes the Preschool Director and serves in that position until the Preschool closes in 2010.

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JOHN 12:32

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

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**DRAGON TALES: “*Stop Believing?*”**  
**By Laura Newell**

“I no longer have any faith in God” Li Hong Mei told me. “And I want to ask your permission to stop believing,” she continued.

I paused for what seemed like a long moment. “If I could persuade you to follow Jesus Christ, then someone else could come along and convince you not to do so.”

Hong Mei nodded and smiled, showing a deep dimple in her left cheek. My mind momentarily wandered to the last Bible study she’d attended. There were seven of us crowded into the living room, four sitting on chairs, three on stools. It had all started here - or stopped here - with questions being fired around the room...the middle of last May.

We’d discussed 1 Corinthian love in the context of chapter 13 questioning how each of us could apply it to our lives. Xiao Wei Wei asked, “Are you saying Laura that God’s love requires us to forgive our leaders who ordered tanks to fire on our friends in Tian’anmen Square?”

Yang Li interrupted: “Of course, we must forgive them because they are blinded, deceived by the father of lies!”

“Do you recall what former Premier Zhou Enlai taught the Chinese people?”

Everyone nodded or gave indication that indeed they remembered. Probably for my sake Hong Mei quoted one of the most respected and loved Chinese leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. “Your love for your friends must be as warm as the summer sun. Hatred for your enemies must be as cold as winter ice.”

Voices were automatically lowered as these six young women reminded one another of the recent atrocities in Beijing. Several of them had gone by train to see with their own eyes what was happening.

Zhou Guo Ling's voice rose. "Everyone knew it was wrong for the People's Liberation Army to turn on the people! I saw with my own eyes as the citizens came out to turn back convoys of PLA trucks filled with soldiers. We counted 17 tanks one afternoon along with armored troop carriers! Hundreds of thousands of people crowded into the streets to set up barricades in the night. I heard them pleading with soldiers not to attack unarmed students..."

"I saw Chairman Mao's portrait being painted over by three students in Tian'anmen Square and I watched while police dragged them away."

"Yes, and all of us heard on the news when the Central Party in Beijing promised the students would not be punished. They lied! Our leaders always lie to us. NO one believes them anyway."

"Tens of thousands of PLA soldiers took the Square by force, shooting and killing so many with their tanks and automatic rifles and armored vehicles. They used a flame thrower to clear the path for the military to follow. Troops came out of the Forbidden City, firing as they went. Do you have any idea how many were crushed by tanks as they swept across on the hard cement?"

"Some students practiced non-violence to the very end. Others fought with petrol bombs."

"And I heard rumors that the government troops were burning bodies in Tian'anmen to distort the official body count – make it look like less people died..."

"That wasn't a rumor. It was true! My friend in Beijing..."

"My cousin told me that when her neighbor went to identify the body of her son, the police arrested her! And now people in the city are telling everyone not to go forward and risk their whole family's safety."

It was my turn to interrupt. "Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ," I reminded them. "God does teach us to love our enemies and to forgive those who treat us badly. Who remembers what Jesus' dying words were?"

"Father, forgive them..."

"You mean we're just supposed to forgive them? That's it?"

Hong Mei looked at me with contempt. "I prefer Premier Zhou's ideas. Those monsters are my enemies and I will hate them forever, Laura. Do you understand?"

"Yes, I think so. But I thought you wanted to follow Jesus, not Zhou Enlai."

"I thought so, too, but now I'm not so sure. Did you hear of the 70 year old woman with her grandchild standing in the middle of Tian'anmen? She dropped to her knees and begged the soldiers not to slaughter the students, 'the future of China.' People's Liberation Army soldiers turned their machine guns on her and the child."

“Yes, I heard. And I was also told of citizens who later tracked down the soldier who killed that grandmother and her grandchild. They doused them with gasoline and set them on fire. Is that the kind of vengeance you want, Hong Mei?” I asked.

“Maybe,” she confessed, her head dropping into her hands.

“Jesus teaches us that vengeance is not ours. It belongs to him because only God sees everything, knows everything. Who else can sit in righteous judgement? You start killing the soldiers who killed that grandmother and where will it end?”

“An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth? That’s a whole lot of blind and toothless people. But maybe only God can forgive their crimes. We cannot.”

My mind abruptly turned to the present as I stared at the young woman sitting across from me. “If you can stop believing in God, then stop. If you can stop following Christ, then stop. You don’t need my permission. But if God’s Spirit lives in you, then you won’t be able to stop my friend.”

A smile. Then a hug and she was gone. That was the last time I saw Hong Mei.